Hafa Adai!

ARC: Home fire in Sadog Tasi displaces two households. PAGE 5

'Yutu emergency pay for DPS chief illegally paid for many reasons' PAGE 7

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AT A GLANCE

As of 7:56pm, Feb. 10, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 99.9%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,842
Fully Vaccinated:	36,748
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,323
Fully Vaccinated:	5,167
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,132

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	38,050	622	38,672
Recovered	31,844	18	31,862
Active	5,883	622	6,505
Deaths	303	2	305

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,563	221	6,784
Traced via Travel Screening	617	0	617
Traced via Community Screening	5,946	230	6,167
Deaths	23	0	23

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

221 new cases ID'd in NMI

Two hundred twenty-one additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI, bringing the Commonwealth's total to 6,784 cases since March 26, 2020.

» 2 COVID-19-related deaths in Guam
» 622 new cases in Guam

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified of two COVID-19-related fatalities and 622 new cases, as well as 50 hospitalized.

Of the 221 cases that were identified in the CNMI last Feb. 8, 2022, a total of 102 were identified via contact tracing and 119 via community testing. Of that number, six were identified on Tinian and four on Rota. The vaccination statuses of the 221 cases are pending verification.

As of Feb. 9, 2022, seven individuals in the CNMI are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, one of them on a ventilator.

Of the total number of cases identified in the CNMI, as of Feb. 8, 2022, there have been 4,841 recoveries; 1,920 active cases; and 23 COVID-19-related deaths. A total of 3,403 of these cases were identified via contact tracing; 2,764 via community testing; and 617 via travel testing.

In Guam, the 304th CO-

See 221 on Page 4

How to get up to $3.6K per child in tax credit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of Americans who have never filed a tax return will need to do so this year in order to claim what's coming to them under the enhanced child tax credit.

Previously, only people who earned enough money to owe income taxes could qualify for the full credit.

But as part of the $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, President Joe Biden expanded the program, increasing the payments to up to $3,600 annually for each child aged 5 or under and $3,000 for those who are ages 6 to 17.

The monthly payments have amounted to $300 for each child 5 and younger and $250 for those between 5 and 17.

The government began to send the payments out—an overall $93 billion—on a monthly basis starting last July. Now, there are an additional six months' worth of payments waiting to be claimed. And some families haven't collected any of the benefits they're due yet. In all,

See HOW on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A fire engulfed a vehicle in Sadog Tasi in the early hours of Feb. 7, 2022.

Fire engulfs vehicle in Sadog Tasi

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire engulfed a vehicle in Sadog Tasi in the early hours of Feb. 7, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services continues to investigate what the cause could've been.

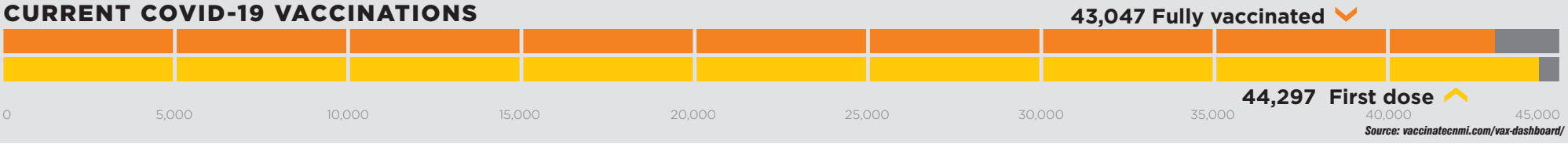
DFEMS spokesperson Rob Mojica said that responding DFEMS units confirmed Monday at around 1:46am that a vehicle was fully engulfed in flames at the Prince Hotel in Sadog Tasi.

Aside from a vehicle, a room on the second floor of the hotel that was adjacent to the vehicle was also found fully engulfed in flames.

Fortunately, there were no fatalities reported but DFEMS Division of Fire

See FIRE on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

SUPPLEMENT
Today's issue comes with a Valentine's Day supplement that starts on Page 11.

Page 11

BUSINESS
The Philippines has lifted a nearly two-year ban on foreign travelers.

Page 19

WORLD
COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Tonga and tests have confirmed the presence of omicron.

Page 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

'Has NMI gotten $23.5M Yutu reimbursements yet?'

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) wants an update from Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig if the CNMI government has already received the $23.5 million reimbursements for Super Typhoon Yutu expenses.

DeLeon Guerrero asked Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) to ask Atalig for an update about the reimbursements. at the Senate's session Thursday last week.

Atalig had disclosed last December that the government is awaiting reimbursement of $23.5 million in expenses it incurred after Yutu and from the pandemic response.

DeLeon Guerrero said she also wants to go on record that after reading the Senate committee reports on the Marianas Public Land Trust board, she came across a finding that the central government had borrowed $50 million from MPLT as a result of the Yutu expenses.

"And that's why this is very critical, Mr. President. We need to know from the Secretary of Finance if the $23.5 million has been reimbursed by the federal government or [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] for that matter," she said.

The senator said right now as she speaks, out of the $50 million loan from MPLT to resolve the issue of Yutu payments, there's a standing balance of $12 million owed MPLT. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Collection status of $400K from former shipowners sought

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee has requested Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to appear for a meeting this Tuesday to provide information on, among other things, the collection status of the $400,000 that the former owners of M/V *Luta* have agreed to pay as part of a settlement agreement with the CNMI government in 2019.

Ways and Means Committee vice chair Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) informed House Speaker Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and members of the committee that the purpose of the meeting is to invite Atalig to provide reports, updates, and briefings on the CNMI's financial matters.

Magofna included the collection status of the $400,000 in the "other fiscal-related matters" of the meeting agenda.

The meeting will be in the House chamber at 10am.

Magofna said yesterday that the meeting was originally scheduled last Jan. 21, but Finance was not able to make it and had requested to do it in February instead.

Magofna

At a Senate session last week, Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) expressed concern as to why Finance and the Office of the Attorney General have not collected a single penny from the former owners of M/V *Luta*.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres informed the Legislature last Dec. 29 about vetoing a Senate local bill that sought to earmark the $400,000 repayment by Luta Mermaid LLC and local poker fees for the Rota Interisland Medical Referral patients, medical subsistence program, and Rota Municipal Scholarship.

Torres said that, according to Finance and OAG, although the defendants in the Luta Mermaid litigation have agreed to repay the settlement amount of $400,000, no payment has been made to the Commonwealth yet.

The governor, however, disclosed that the OAG had informed him that an order to show cause motion will be filed shortly to enforce the settlement terms of the lawsuit.

Magofna also requested Atalig to brief them about the ASC Trust delinquent payment notice, annual fiscal report for fiscal year 2021, the fiscal year 2022 first quarter

See COLLECTION on Page 4

Saipan chapter eyed for 'Guitars 4 Vets'

Veterans shouldn't have to face the challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, in silence or alone. Through the teamwork and camaraderie of "Guitars for Vets," they can join a community where they learn to play guitar and find solace in the songs they love as well as the songs they have yet to write.

The Veterans Affairs' Saipan Outreach Clinic is looking to recruit volunteer instructors and a chapter coordinator in order to launch our own Guitars 4 Vets chapter here on Saipan. Volunteers do not need to be veterans. If you are interested, contact Bridget Mahoney by calling our clinic at (670) 322-0035 or emailing directly (bridget.mahoney@va.gov).

For more information about the program, see their website at https://guitars4vets.org/ ***(PR)***

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The Mobility Space is Getting Greener in the Northern Mariana Islands
The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.
This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.
Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.
The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.
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Court reopens case filed by inmate against DOC and officials

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the request of an inmate who was recently denied clemency by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to reopen court proceedings in his lawsuit against the Department of Corrections.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Price Shoiter's request asking the District Court for the NMI to enforce the parties' previous settlement agreement or to vacate the dismissal order that would reopen the proceedings in his case against DOC.

Manglona stated that the previous dismissal order will be set aside and the matter is now reopened and will be placed back on the court's trial calendar.

The judge ordered both parties to submit a proposed scheduling order within 21 days and to return to court on March 10, 2022, at 1:30pm for a case management conference.

In her order, Manglona stated that because the previous settlement agreement was contingent on the governor granting Shoiter clemency and he was denied that, the agreement is now null and void.

"The Settlement Agreement in this case explicitly provides that 'this settlement agreement is contingent on the governor's approval of [Shoiter's] application for conditional clemency.' Had this condition not been a part of the agreement, it is unlikely Shoiter would have entered into the agreement. Because clemency is an express consideration of the agreement, the governor's denial of conditional clemency for Shoiter makes the agreement null and void for lack of consideration. Thus, the court finds that extraordinary circumstances exist warranting

the setting aside of its dismissal order and grants Shoiter's request to reopen the proceedings," she said.

In addition, DOC and its officials have also violated the terms of the settlement agreement because Shoiter has allegedly yet to be a paid a cent from the agreed lump sum that he was supposed to receive upon his departure to Chuuk.

"The parties agreed that Shoiter would be paid a lump sum amount upon his departure from Saipan to Chuuk. To date, no payment has been made—a patent violation of the settlement agreement. Based on this alleged violation, the settlement agreement alternatively allows the court to retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the settlement agreement," Manglona stated.

Back in 2016, Shoiter, 74, was sentenced to a 10-year imprisonment term for sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl. Then in 2020, he filed his suit against DOC.

In February 2021, the parties executed the settlement agreement that was contingent on the governor's approval of Shoiter's application for conditional clemency.

However, on Dec. 3, 2021, defendants announced that the governor had denied Shoiter's application for conditional clemency.

Amata applauds Blinken visit to the Pacific

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata (R-A. Samoa) has applauded the visit to the Pacific of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in his first foray into the region since taking office in 2021.

"Welcome to my home district of American Samoa, strategically important as the only U.S. soil in the Southern Hemisphere," said Amata in a letter that was hand-delivered to the Secretary, made possible courtesy of the Governor's office, during his stop in Pago Pago, where COVID-19 restrictions precluded the nation's top diplomat from making a longer stay.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Samoa Delegate Uifa'atali Amata and Pacific Islands Caucus chair Rep. Ed Case at an event in the Library of Congress.

As the pandemic winds down to a close, the Blinken mission is seen as an effort by the Biden administration to ramp up its moves to pivot to the Asia-Pacific in the aftermath of the end of American involvement in Afghanistan.

"I am glad the secretary at least got the opportunity to see for himself that when it comes to this part of the world, where the Chinese Communist Party is increasing its visibility dramatically," she asserted, "American Samoa may be remote but is central to our national security."

Noting that Blinken also intended to focus on reviewing negotiations to extend financial provisions of the Compact of Free Association with three Micronesian freely associated states, Amata urged swift completion of the talks so the pacts can be submitted to Congress for implementing legislation.

"I know other members of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus and I are encouraged that the leaders of the three Freely Associated States are anxious to renew their long-term partnership with the United States, which we fully support," she said. "Last November, the Caucus hosted a bipartisan briefing by the President of Palau organized by my good friend and Chairman of the Caucus, Congressman Ed Case of Hawaii.

"Please know that we applaud your important visit to the region and urge swift completion of the negotiations to renew the Compacts as quickly as possible so they can be taken up by Congress," she continued. "I am sure the other members of our Pacific Caucus would join me in asking you for a briefing on your observations and discussions upon your return from the region so we can be prepared to receive your legislative proposal for Compact extension.

"Pago Pago is just the first stop on a trip that will be long and tiring but I hope productive," she concluded. "You have our best wishes for a successful outcome." ***(PR)***

FIRE

From Page 1

Prevention and Arson Investigation, DFPAI, continues to investigate the cause of the fire.

According to an official DFEMS report, a man called 911 at approximately 1:33am last Feb. 7 reporting a car on fire at Prince Hotel in Sadog Tasi.

At 1:34am, Engine 2, Engine 4, and Rescue 1 responded, with Engine 2 arriving on scene first at around 1:46am. Engine 2 confirmed that the vehicle was already fully engulfed in flames. At around 1:56pm, Engine 2 reported the fire under control.

Tony T. Santos, lead DFPAI firefighter in this case, stated that the four-door sedan had sustained major damage from the fire. "I observed a four-door sedan that sustained major heat and smoke damage. Area of origin was located on the northwest side of the vehicle," he said.

Santos said that, following several interviews with individuals on scene, it was learned that there was a fire in one room on the second floor of the hotel adjacent to the vehicle.

The area of origin for the structure fire was on the western side of the building on the second floor.

As of 6pm press time, DFPAI continues to investigate the cause of the fire and how the two fires are tied together.

COLLECTION

From Page 3

expenditure report, CARES Act expenditure report, and about the distribution of $80 million the CNMI received under the American Rescue Plan Act.

In addition, Magofna asked Atalig to discuss the guidance for premium pay and retirees' bonuses, reprogramming report for fiscal year 2022 as of Jan. 31, 2022, the "travel bucks" for tourists as of Jan. 31, 2022, and the amount of attorneys' fees the witnesses incurred for appearing before the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee in its investigation into Torres' expenditures of public trust and travels. She requested Atalig to brief them about attorneys' fees contract amounts and payments made as of Jan. 31, 2022.

HOW

From Page 1

an estimated $193 billion is yet to be claimed.

The only way to receive that money is to file a tax return.

Some questions and answers about who's eligible for the credit and how to get it:

Who gets the child tax credit?

More than 36 million families received the advanced payments in December alone, which marked the last month that advanced monthly payments were sent to households. Families qualify for the full credit if their 2021 adjusted gross income was at or below $150,000 for married couples filing a joint return, or $75,000 for single-filer parents.

How do I know if I qualify and what if I don't owe taxes?

Whether or not a family owes tax money or has filed taxes before, they will need to file a return to get all or the rest of their money.

Eligible families that didn't receive any advance child tax credit payments during 2021 can still claim the full amount of the child tax credit on their federal tax return. Those families that are unsure of whether they've received payments, or potentially received paper checks that went uncashed, can visit the Child Tax Credit Update Portal, to see how much of the credit they should have received.

Additionally, families that received payments should have received a "Letter 6419, 2021 advance CTC" notice, which includes information on the amount of advance payments families have received and tax information for filing purposes.

However, the IRS has said that some people may have received incorrect information on their forms. The portal can help people who want to confirm the correct amount they should have received. Despite any inconsistencies in documentation, the IRS advises that taxpayers should keep the letter, and any other IRS communications about advance payments, with their tax records.

What is the best way to file?

The IRS urges individuals to file their taxes electronically to process forms quicker, and provides links on the agency website to free filing sites like GetYourRefund.org, which helps families earning less than about $66,000 a year file their taxes for free. The organization partners with IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, and provides free help in English and Spanish. Another option is MyFreeTaxes.com, which provides virtual assistance to people who make $58,000 or less to file their federal and state taxes for free. That service is offered through the United Way.

The IRS also has a tool to help individuals identify other free file sites that offer tax filing help.

What if i live outside the 50 states?

While the coronavirus relief package included child tax credit benefits for residents of Puerto Rico, they were not eligible to receive the advance monthly payments. Instead, Puerto Rican residents can receive the full amount of child tax credit that they are eligible for by filing a federal income tax return this year. Additionally, residents of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands may be eligible for the full child tax credit payments, but they will need to contact their local U.S. territory tax agency.

Who can help me sort this out?

The IRS has launched a website, called ChildTaxCredit.gov, which lists criteria that filers must meet in order to receive the full credit. Additionally, the federal agency will begin offering walk-in assistance with IRS volunteers in limited locations for individuals who need help filing their taxes, beginning Feb. 12.

Thirty-five tax assistance centers around the country will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the second Saturday of the next four months.

The tax filing deadline is April 18.

221

From Page 1

VID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City on Feb. 10, 2022. The patient was a 48-year-old male, unknown vaccination, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on February 10, 2022.

The 305th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Feb. 10, 2022. The patient was a 61-year-old male, vaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on February 4, 2022.

"It is never easy to report more lives lost to this deadly virus, and to their family and those who loved them, we extend our deepest sympathies and condolences," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the JIC statement. "As a community, we can save lives, and we do that by continuing the public health interventions, including wearing our masks, washing our hands, watching our distance, and getting vaccinated and boosted if it's your time. Please continue these mitigation measures to prevent more days of grief and sorrow."

Also, Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services reported 622 new cases of COVID-19 from 2,437 specimens analyzed on Feb. 9, 2022. A total of 76 of the cases reported yesterday were through the Department of Defense. To date, there have been a total of 38,672 officially reported cases in Guam, 305 deaths, 6,505 cases in active isolation, and 31,862 not in active isolation. ***(PR)***

ARC: Home fire in Sadog Tasi displaces two households

Two families living in two apartment units in Sadog Tasi were recently displaced from their homes after a fire hit their home fire on Sadog Tasi Drive early Monday morning.

An American Red Cross-NMI Chapter news release stated that two of its volunteers, Richard Defan and Triana Zhu, responded to the fire after Red Cross volunteer responders received a call of a structure fire in Sadog Tasi around 4:30am early Monday morning.

The news release stated that the volunteers quickly assessed the incident and were able to help the clients who were displaced from their homes due to the fire.

"There was a total of two apartment units affected displacing residents of two households. Red Cross volunteers were able to provide clients with immediate assistance for food, clothing, and shelter while they begin their road to recovery. Additionally, clients were provided with cleanup kits complete with mops, bleach, and other cleaning supplies along with personal care products," the news release stated. It did not specify the number of people affected by the fire.

"We are extremely grateful for our volunteers who make themselves available 24/7 365 days of the year to assist those in need," said American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh. "It is also through the help of the generous donors in the community that provide our organization with the means to assist those affected by such disasters."

Simple steps to save lives

The Red Cross is calling on everyone to take two simple steps that can save lives: practice fire drills at home and check existing smoke alarms.

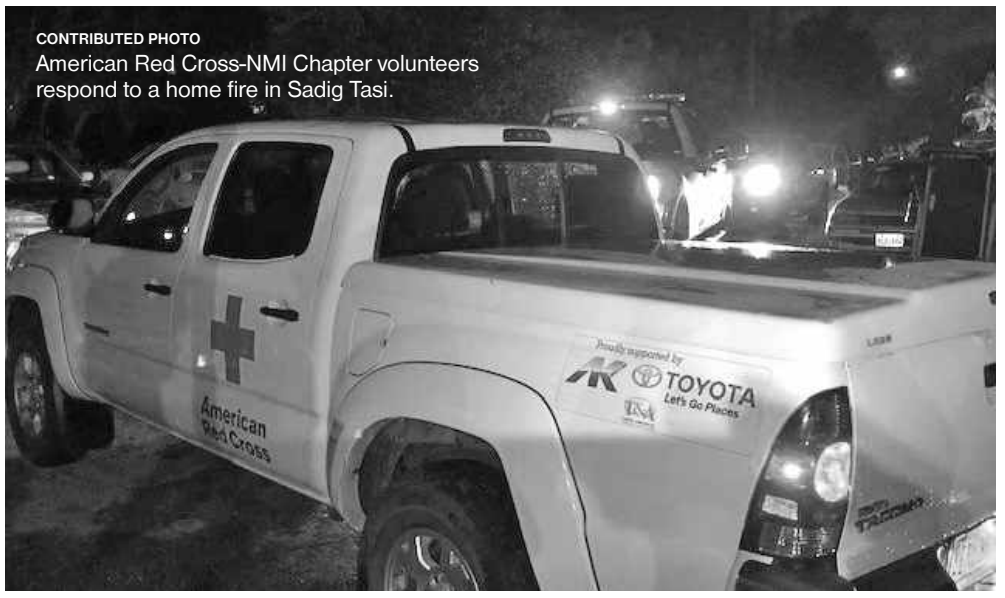
There are several things families and individuals can do to increase their chances of surviving a fire: • If someone doesn't have smoke alarms, install them. At a minimum, put one on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Local building codes vary and there may be additional requirements where someone lives.

■ If someone does have alarms, test them today. If they don't work, replace them.

■ Make sure that everyone in the family knows how to get out of every room and how to get out of the home in less than two minutes.

■ Practice the fire escape plan. What's the household's escape time?

People can visit redcross.org/homefires to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire. They can become a Red Cross volunteer by contacting the local chapter office at 670-234-3459 or by visiting our website at www.redcross.org/nmi. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers respond to a home fire in Sadig Tasi.

Ethics Committee to tackle 2 complaints

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives' Special Committee on Official Conduct and Ethics will meet this Thursday in the House chamber to tackle two separate complaints.

Propst

Manglona

In a notice issued yesterday, Ethics Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the meeting is intended to address matters referred to the committee. The meeting will start at 1:30pm.

Members of the public will be allowed to comment.

The committee will be tackling two complaints, referred to as REF No. 22-001 and REF No. 22-002.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Manglona said he can't disclose who the complaints are from since they're marked confidential.

Prior news reports, however, have tagged Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae and Robert H. Hunter as having filed separate ethics complaints against Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan).

Last Nov. 9, Vaiagae, who is a counselor for abused women, was reported in the news as having filed an ethics complaint against Propst over allegations that he had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at the Northern Marianas College.

Separately, Hunter, who is the senior policy adviser at the Office of the Governor, filed an ethics complaint against Propst last Dec. 15 over the latter's remarks that circulated on social media where he allegedly made physical threats and used inappropriate language against Hunter and other people.

Vaiagae and Hunter filed the complaints before House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Propst has denied the allegations in Vaiagae's complaint. He described the complaint as a "distraction" instigated by the NMI Republican Party and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to take the public's attention away from the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's investigation into the governor's expenditures of public funds and travels.

Propst described Hunter as a "cyber bully."

Last Dec. 3, Villagomez created the Ethics Committee and appointed Manglona to chair the committee.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair**, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan, TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of February 11, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Public Lands	10/20/2021 SMS-2001-X-213-A1	Koblerville Homestead Subdivision	Koblerville, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved* 01/27/2022
2. Commonwealth Ports Authority	10/22/2021 TMS-97-X-294-A1	Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion	Tinian	Major Siting	Approved* 01/27/2022
3. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	12/29/2021 SLRm-2022-012	Aqua Park Inflatable Replacement	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 02/01/2022
4. Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc.	01/24/2022 SPIm-2022-014	Drydock-M/V Pacific Marine 1	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 02/02/2022
5. Resources Management International Corporation	01/28/2022 SMS-2022-015	Rock Crushing & Rock Quarry Operations	As Matuis, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
6. Ryan Mendiola	01/28/2022 SSm-2022-016	Fireworks	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 1/28/2022
7. Fang Wang	02/03/2022 SW-2021-047-A1	Construction of Concrete Driveway & Water Tank	Susupe, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangrove	Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

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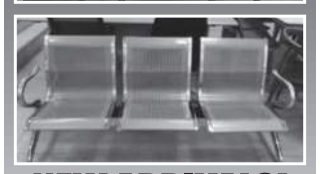
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-046

Opening Date: February 8, 2022
Closing Date: February 22, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Tinian Administration**
LOCATION:	**Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

Duties:
- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Assist with fuel delivery and fuel transfer for power plant;
- Reports on fuel status and power generation data;
- Assists with meter readings and customer meter connections, disconnections and reconnections;
- Assist with the customer meter inspections;
- Assists with power technical assistance- monitors and inspects contractor for power installations and projects.
- Responding to customer calls.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:
- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday through Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-048

Opening Date: February 9, 2022
Closing Date: February 23, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Administrative Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Gathers, assembles updates, processes and/or distributes forms, documents, requests, invoices, mail and/or records; reviews information for completeness, accuracy and content; resolves discrepancies; prepares information for processing and disseminates and/or maintains documentation.
- Provides reception duties and responds to requests for information; provides customer support with completing forms and answering routine questions; refers inquiries as required to the appropriate resource; and advises management of issues for resolution.
- Enters data in systems or on documents; organizes and maintain files, records, logs, and/or timesheets; ensure file integrity and retention of records and documentation according to established procedures.
- Retrieves and/or prepares reports, correspondence, documents, deposits, account adjustments and other related documentation.
- Monitors supplies, materials and/or equipment inventory; prepares requisitions replenishment of supplies or required services; monitors order status; coordinates deliveries and services with vendors; and may provide pick up or delivery of documents or items as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, GED or ABE Program.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic filing and recordkeeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Specialized equipment relevant to area of assignment; Modern office technology. Strong interpersonal and communication skills, clerical skills, and moderate computer proficiency.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer service, Filing, organizing and maintain records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Reviewing and researching account information; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources Department located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (except legal holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Alternative Care Site ready for anticipated COVID surge

Tudela

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is positive that the CNMI's Alternative Care Site, or ACS, is ready for the anticipated local surge of COVID-19, now that the highly transmissible omicron variant has been positively identified to be present in the CNMI.

CHCC's chief medical officer Dr. John Tudela said yesterday that, although there is an anticipated rise in COVID-19 cases, the CNMI is ready for it thanks to the Alternative Care Site located within Kanoa Resort.

"The CHCC is anticipating a rise in infected individuals and the Alternative Care Site remains ready to take care of COVID-19 patients as an extension of the acute care provided at the hospital during a surge," he said in a text message to *Saipan Tribune*.

The ACS was built in April 2020 to separate COVID-19 patients from CHCC's main hospital in an effort to protect the CNMI community from a spread.

It was created after the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services projected a surge in the CNMI cases by June 2020.

Tudela said data suggests that the omicron variant spreads more easily, which is why the CNMI community should not let its guard down.

"Emerging data suggests that the omicron variant spreads more easily than other variants and generally causes less severe disease than infection from other variants. This does not mean we should let our guard down. Our vulnerable population may still get a severe disease due to underlying chronic medical conditions and could die from co-infection with other microorganisms, as well as from complications related to organ failure," he stated.

He urges everyone to get their complete set of vaccinations as it is the No. 1 defense against this new variant that has already started a new wave of COVID-19 positive cases in the CNMI.

"While we do have treatment for COVID-19, vaccination remains our best defense against overwhelming hospitalizations and the collapse of our fragile health care system. In addition, all residents of the CNMI should continue to live COVID-19-safe: wear a well-fitted mask, wash/sanitize your hands frequently, and limit contact with individuals outside of your household," Tudela said.

According to a previous statement from CHCC spokesperson Guillermo Lifoifoi, over 40 COVID-19 positive samples that were collected between Dec. 20, 2021, and Jan. 10, 2022, were identified as the omicron variant.

"Of the 64 samples sequenced in the batch sent Jan. 12, 2022, 43 were identified as the omicron variant and 21 as the delta variant. The samples in this batch were collected between Dec. 20, 2021 and Jan. 10, 2022. The first sample that was identified as omicron was collected on Dec. 20, 2021," he had said.

The samples were sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for sequencing and identification. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE 2/1/2022	CLOSING DATE 2/15/2022
JVA#22-008:	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR (SAIPAN)		
JVA#22-007:	PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (SAIPAN)		
JVA#22-006:	MARKETING SPECIALIST I (SAIPAN)		
JVA#22-005:	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER (SAIPAN)		
LOCATION:	MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

NOTICE TO INCREASE CAPITAL

Please Notice that Vizion Insurance Co. Ltd dba Vizion Insurance intends to increase its capital distribution by One Million Dollars ($1,000,000.00). This Notice is made under 7306 of the CNMI Insurance Code. If anybody has any objection regarding this matter, please send your objection to P.O. Box 503732 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

/s/ Joselito L. Ranjo /s/ Florefie V. Villaraza

'Yutu emergency pay for DPS chief illegally paid for many reasons'

The CNMI Attorney General claims that Department of Public Safety commissioner was unlawfully paid for overtime hours he accrued during the CNMI's Super Typhoon Yutu Recovery period for many reasons.

According to the lawsuit filed by Attorney General Edward Manibusan against DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero, one of the main reasons the commissioner is not qualified to receive typhoon emergency pay is because he is a gubernatorial appointee, meaning he is classified as exempt for purposes of eligibility for overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Aside from his position being exempted from receiving overtime payment, Manibusan said that Guerrero, as DPS chief, cannot be paid in excess of the salary ceiling except as provided by law.

Manibusan

Here, with the overtime he accrued, Guerrero's salary in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 exceeded the salary ceiling of $65,175, which means he was unlawfully compensated.

"Defendant's salary is capped by 1 CMC 8245(a), which provides that 'the following appointed positions within the Commonwealth government shall be paid a base annual salary as follows: Commissioner, Public Safety $54,000.00.' Defendant's total compensation in fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 exceeded his statutory salary. The defendant received $46,892.96 in addition to his annual salary. The defendant received $29,388.08 in FY 2019 and $17,504.88 in FY 2020 for work that occurred in FY 2019 between Oct. 23, 2018 and Jan. 23, 2019. Defendant should be ordered to return the unlawful compensation to the Commonwealth Treasury," Manibusan stated.

Guerrero

Manibusan also argues that the payment of compensation to Guerrero in excess of his salary for which there was no authorization by law exceeded the authority of the director of Personnel.

"No annual appropriation act appropriates funding to pay typhoon premium pay, overtime, or extra pay to defendant," he said.

Also, the payment of compensation to Guerrero in excess of his salary for which there was no valid appropriation of funding exceeded the authority of the governor, Manibusan said.

"Defendant should be ordered to return to the Commonwealth Treasury all compensation in excess of his salary that exceeded the authority of the director of Personnel and the governor," he said. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

45 positions up for grabs this Nov. 8 general election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The position for governor, lieutenant governor, delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives and 42 other government positions, not including those for retention at the Judiciary, are up for grabs in this Nov. 8 general election.

Sablan

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Robin Sablan said yesterday that the top seats for the coming election is the governor, lieutenant governor, and U.S. delegate.

Both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) are seeking re-election. Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is running for governor.

The Attorney General's position is also up for election. Attorney General Edward Manibusan has yet to announce whether he is seeking re-election or not.

As for the Judiciary, Sablan said they are still verifying as to who among the judges and justices are up for retention.

For the House of Representatives, there are 20 positions. Precincts 1 and 3 will have six slots each; precincts 2, 4, and 5 will each have two positions, and Rota and Tinian will have one each.

For the Senate, two seats are available for each of the three senatorial districts, for a total of six seats up for election.

Sablan said Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), and Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) are not for election this year.

There are for four mayoral seats up for contention—Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Northern Islands.

For the municipal council, there are three seats for each of the three senatorial districts, for a total of nine available seats.

For the Board of Education, available seats are one for Tinian and one for Saipan, for a total of two.

Sablan said the terms of BOE members Antonio Borja of Tinian and Andrew Orsini of Saipan are up, while the rest have until 2024.

July 11, 2022, is the first day for the submission of nominating petitions and candidacies, and also the last day to establish residency requirements.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TERMINALS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters on the windows and doors along the front side of the arrival and departure terminals, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022.** Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director _____ Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT OF SAIPAN SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP PAVING & DRAINAGE
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
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WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Port of Saipan South Seaplane Ramp Paving & Drainage, Project No. CPA-SS-001-19.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas as cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, February 4, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director Date: January 12, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
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E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-008-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRR-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of about two years (contract ends on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-008-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concession"
CPA-RFP-007-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of approximately two years (contract to end on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-007-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS TINIAN SEAPORT BUILDING, TINIAN

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the Tinian Seaport Building, Tinian, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of $50.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director _____ Date

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 30

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EDITORIAL

Consider no-fly list to ground unruly passengers

Few places have brought out the worst in people during the COVID-19 pandemic more than airplanes. In-flight confrontations have soared over the past two years and airlines are worried they will impact safety.

The threat of fines aren't working to deter unruly passengers. Perhaps keeping those who can't behave themselves grounded will.

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian is asking Attorney General Merrick Garland to support a no-fly list for those who disrupt flights with bad behavior.

It's a request that should be considered. Airlines already keep their own list of travelers who are unwelcome on their flights because of inappropriate behavior. A universal list maintained by the federal government could prevent those ill-mannered passengers from jumping from one airline to another.

Better protecting passengers and crew from those who go nuts when they get in the air is an issue that must be addressed.

Airlines reported more than 6,000 incidents of violent or disruptive passengers in 2021. The FAA opened 1,100 investigations into unruly behavior last year, compared to just 146 in 2019.

In January, there were 323 reports of unruly passengers across all airlines; 205 started over the refusal to wear masks on boards.

Objections to mask wearing trigger the majority of in-flight incidents. There's absolutely no justification for this. Passengers are fully informed of the mask mandate before they board the plane. If they have such serious objections to masking up, they shouldn't buy an airplane ticket.

Yet too many insist on taking off their masks, or wearing them improperly, once they settle into their seats.

Many of the outbursts reported to the FAA have been violent. Passengers have physically attacked crew members or fellow travelers. Some have had to be restrained in their seats. Several flights turned around or made unscheduled landings to remove out-of-control passengers.

As Bastian notes in his letter to the Justice Department, crew members who are preoccupied with unruly passengers may be unable to perform the in-flight duties that keep the airplane operating safely.

Unlike other environments, those inside an airline can't walk away from a confrontation. The no-fly list is a possible solution for those who disrupt a flight.

Before such a registry is adopted, however, serious attention must need to be paid to due process and it should apply only to dangerous or threatening behavior. Someone who walks on a plane a little cranky and insults a flight attendant is one thing. A passenger who physically assaults someone else is another. There must be due process protections. What constitutes behavior that will land someone on a no-fly list should be clearly defined. A no-fly list should be

See CONSIDER on Next Page

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO ENFORCE MANDATES THAT LIMIT MY FREEDOM!
JUDGE © 2021 KING FEATURES
"AND THAT'S WHY I'M DRIVING DRUNK DOWN THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD."

Fitting vaccine conspiracies into a philosophy of fiction

By HANNAH KIM
Los Angeles Times

Hannah Kim is a philosophy professor at Macalester College. @thisishannahkim

As a philosophy professor specializing in language, it is my job to conceptually distinguish fiction from lies. Lies are falsehoods shared with the intent to deceive; fiction is falsehood shared without the intent to deceive. My academic work examines how it is that we think "Hamlet is a prince" is true while knowing that "Hamlet doesn't exist" is also true.

I teach my students about these distinctions—the difference between "fictional truth" and truth. Yet armed with this intellectual framework, I still can't convince my own relatives that COVID-19 vaccines don't have microchips in them.

Why? Because psychological needs drive what they believe. We all need to feel secure, and conspiracy theories can provide certainty and comfort. More than a third of Americans aren't fully vaccinated, and my research on fiction helps me see that for some Americans, vaccine hesitancy is a rational reaction, a way to produce desired results.

I have experience with being trapped in this kind of thinking. I was involved in a "church" for several years that exhibited all the usual signs of a cult. The charismatic pastor abused congregation members; we met every single day for Bible study, exercise and "fellowship"; we were alienated from family and told we couldn't trust our own thoughts. I knew something was wrong, but leaving the church was difficult because the cult satisfied deep-rooted psychological needs. I stayed for years.

While trying to reason with a relative this past Christmas, I realized the microchip conspiracy theory—that COVID vaccines contain "the mark of the beast" signaling alliance to Satan—also met powerful psychological needs. One wants to be in control, chosen and special, "awake" during End Times while others "sleep." Many of my relatives and their friends are Korean immigrants with limited English, had difficult childhoods, unhappy family lives or face financial hardships. Sensational spiritual beliefs make them feel secure in ways life has not.

I'm fed up with anti-vaxxers. But I see that cults and conspiracy theories get something right about our needs. We all need something or someone to tell us that we are in control or, at the very least, that we're OK. And for some people, that means embracing disinformation and false theories because they appear to offer answers or explain things we don't understand.

In my academic work, we debate just how, and why, people react to fictions the way we do. We grieve for people we know do not exist while reading "Anna Karenina," and we internalize Mafia morality and think snitches deserve to die while watching "The Godfather: Part II."

People respond to narratives, and meanings embedded within narratives, without minding whether it is true or false. The line between fictional truth and "real" truth isn't always clear in our minds and hearts. Take it from Akihiko Konda, a Japanese man who married Hatsune Miku, a manga character, in 2018.

Our emotional reactions don't discriminate between fiction and reality, and the same force is at play when it comes to conspiracy theories. "Here's the thing about feelings—they're so much easier to control than facts," says someone in the movie "The Matrix Resurrections."

When emotionally compelling narratives are presented to us, and we're unclear whether they are shared with the intent to deceive or not, it can be hard to tell whether the narrative is fact, fiction or a lie. To make reality even more like the Matrix, social media platforms are perfect means for sowing confusion about what's real. I continue to tell one relative that she can't believe everything she sees on YouTube. Part of knowing whether something is real or fake, fiction or nonfiction, is familiarity with a given medium, but we have generations of people without media literacy skills.

So, what do we do? Unsurprisingly, demanding reasons for her beliefs didn't yield good results with my relative. Discussing theology hasn't worked, either.

Only when I explained why I care did she seem to hear me for the first time. I told her I worried about her health; I said it didn't matter who was right or wrong, just that she was safe. "I know you're telling me to get the vaccine because you love me," she repeated over and over, as if to let it sink in. "Still," she said, "you should stay vigilant. Don't accept any microchips." I agreed I wouldn't.

I'm not sure how successful I was in the end. I know that I need another narrative to fight the false narrative, though I'm not sure how. For now, all I can do is hope the conspiracy theory will be left behind when it no longer serves an emotional purpose—just as I left the cult to pursue my doctorate in philosophy.

Public benefit fund supports transformation projects on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan

Since the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership program began in 2020, the Department of Public Lands has supported its restoration, maintenance, and transformation projects for tourist and village sites on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

When I joined DPL, I learned about GCEA's mission to transform the Marianas at the village, business, and school levels. It was then that I saw that the PPP program directly benefits those of Northern Marianas descent. The focus of the PPP is to help revitalize local areas commonly used by the public, such as basketball courts, youth centers, sports facilities, beaches, parks, roads, and signages.

As of February 2022, the PPP program has expanded to reach 82 sites adopted by 77 organizations. Many of the GCEA's partners are volunteers from nonprofit organizations with limited resources and needed the financial and material support to accomplish their goals for their adopted sites. Along with the Crowne Plaza Resort, we have supported this mission through the commitment of $500,000 to the PPP program and $200,000 to restore public basketball courts and community facilities from its public benefit fund.

Our funding has directly supported the PPP program by funding professional services, the purchase of materials, and the purchase of equipment made available to the PPP partners and volunteers to use at the adopted sites. I'd like to say that I am incredibly impressed with the effort that has been invested in the renovation of sports facilities throughout Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. In just over a year, 21 basketball courts, the Garapan Skate Park, and the Capitol Hill Tennis Court were transformed.

We hope that our current and future contributions and support for various PPP projects will greatly contribute to GCEA's mission to improve the quality of life for everyone who calls the Marianas home and to transform the Marianas into a world-class destination.

I thank the GCEA for its support and commitment to beautifying the CNMI and look forward to seeing more amazing work that the PPP has planned on the islands.

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By SIXTO IGISOMAR
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sixto Igisomar is the Department of Public Lands secretary. He has served the Marianas for several years as a House representative in the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st Legislature. As DPL secretary, he is committed to GCEA's mission in improving the quality of life for the Marianas.

Work life will never be the same. We need some in-person days and some remote

Before the pandemic, few people took remote work seriously. Researching the phenomenon for almost 20 years, I frequently heard disparaging comments like "working from home, shirking from home" and "working remotely, remotely working."

This all changed in March 2020, and we are never going back to the workplace of 2019. Even firms that aggressively pushed in spring 2021 for workers to return to the office, such as Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan, postponed their mandates.

Working from home surged twelvefold between 2017-2018 and May 2020. The pandemic is the biggest shock to American working life since the shift to military production during World War II.

Employees are driving this revolution. Surveys of 50,000 workers across the country find they want to work from home 2.5 days a week on average after the pandemic. Employees working from home frequently tell me how they enjoy the freedom of being able to go to the gym or see the dentist during a weekday, making up the work time in the evenings or on weekends. I enjoy the ability to pick up my kids from school on work-from-home days. Employees with young children are the most likely to want to work from home.

As the pandemic has lingered, many of us have become ever more comfortable with remote human interactions. The rapid spread of new coronavirus variants is further undercutting employers' push for a full-time return.

Indeed, getting employees back to the office is now a major challenge. Companies that want more in-person work will have to overcome some serious hurdles.

First, there's the labor market. A December survey revealed that more than 40% of U.S. employees would start looking for another job or quit immediately if ordered to return to the office full time. Not surprisingly, then, after Goldman Sachs demanded employees return full time to the office, the company announced it would raise its starting pay for first-year analysts by nearly 30%. In this new era, if you want employees in the office full time, you have to pay for it.

A subtler issue lurks in workforce diversity. The survey data show that people of color and highly educated women with young children place especially high value on the ability to work from home at least part of the week. One explanation is that they face a less positive in-person workplace environment. Employers that ban working from home will risk driving these employees out the door. Many organizations are striving to improve representation of women and minorities, especially in management. That may turn out to be incompatible with requiring only in-person work.

Environmental concerns should loom large as well. Working remotely cuts pollution from commuting and business travel, given that transportation generates about 30% of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

Finally, time is a finite resource. Remote work saves millions of hours of commuting each week. Traveling to and from work eats away at our collective productivity, in our jobs and in our personal lives. Some data from Europe and North America showed that when people shifted to remote work during the pandemic, they ended up putting in longer hours—not great news for work-life balance, to be sure, but a development that many employers would cheer.

And yet, a lot of bosses want people back in the office.

So what should we do? My advice is to recognize the reality of the new labor market and adapt. Hybrid schedules are the future, with employees averaging three days a week in the office. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, for instance, can be social and highly engaged days full of in-person meetings, events and connectivity. Mondays and Fridays would then be work-from-home days, for quiet work such as reading, writing and smaller remote meetings. Research suggests this hybrid approach increases productivity by 5% on average compared with the full-time in-person model, making this a win-win for companies and employees.

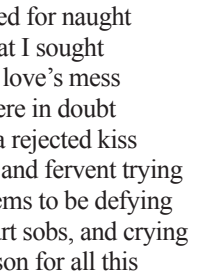
Not everyone will gain from a cultural shift toward working from home. We are now rapidly moving to a three-tier workforce. Research by Jose Barrero, Steve Davis and myself found that about 35% of workers can work at least partly from home. These are usually college-educated professionals and executives. A further 15% of a similar demographic can work remotely all the time. But about 50% of all employees have to work fully in-person.

These include people in front-line jobs in retail, manufacturing, health care and other service industries. Their positions are frequently lower-paid and don't require college degrees. Remote work seems to inevitably widen existing disparities in the workforce. Managers around the country have told me they have been raising salaries for front-line employees to compensate, and are trying to increase flexibility of their working hours. A hybrid schedule for those who can work remotely will also help to bridge this divide.

The hybrid model prevents all of us from getting carried away with the shift to remote work. Some executives are understandably enthusiastic about cost savings, but I worry that a cost-driven push for fully remote work could squeeze the joy out of work life, which includes socializing with colleagues and the chance to shore up shared workplace values. Too much working from home, I fear, could also exacerbate an already highly polarized society.

As employers and employees think about when and how to return to in-person work, we should be open to exploring different approaches. CEOs will need to embrace those three hardest words "I don't know," because so much still is uncertain. But if we take this opportunity to reexamine the future of work, we might still make something positive out of the pandemic.

By NICHOLAS BLOOM
Los Angeles Times



Nicholas Bloom is a professor of economics at Stanford University and co-director of the Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship program at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

CONSIDER

From Page 8

reserved for truly abhorrent and provable misbehavior.

Those whose names are placed on the list should be informed of their status and given a right to appeal. The FAA already can propose civil penalties of up to $37,000 for each violation. The FAA has so far proposed collective fines of over $1.3 million since enacting its zero-tolerance policy for unruly passengers last January.

Travel bans should also have an expiration date.

Flying is already a stressful experience for many people. And the memories of the 9/11 terrorist hijackings still impact the way passengers react to outbursts on an airplane.

The potential for tragedy is too great to tolerate violent or threatening behavior. Keep those who can't behave themselves on the ground.

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Valentine Moods and Vicissitudes

"Musick and Poetry have been acknowledg'd Sisters, which walking hand in hand support each other..."

—John Dryden (1631-1700), English poet who wrote words, lyrics, and poems for many years as a collaborator with Henry Purcell (1659-1695), an English music composer.

If Music is the Food of Love

If music is the food of love then poems are loves thought
if music soothes the savage beast poems are not least
words of love can woo and weave when love is sought
if music is the bread of love poems make it rise like yeast

Sing out with poems when you are filled jump for joy
listening to them let your whole body and soul move
music has melody, harmony, and tunes for hoi polloi
ballads, blues and boogie will get you in the groove

Hear Masses by T. Tallis, H. Schutz, Hildegarde von Bingen
J.S. Bach, Mozart, Handel, and sing the Hallelujah chorus
Mahalia Jackson, Spirituals, Gospel songs keep us singing
Classic Opera, rock and roll, blues songs will seldom bore us

So keep music alive with friends, in school, and in your homes
remember many songs begin with lyrics, rhymes and poems.

Fraught With Love Thought

"Wrought all my loss; O frowning Fortune! cursed, fickle dame; For now I see Inconstancy."

—William Shakespeare

My love fraught, sought, caught, and tangled for naught
My love thought not that it was her love that I sought
My eyes saw less and less of what became love's mess
Though my arms reached out their hugs were in doubt
Sometimes things were amiss, sometimes a rejected kiss
Love seemed to be denying all my fretting and fervent trying
Of my fidelity and faith in that love she seems to be defying
My heart is not buying all the moaning heart sobs, and crying
Which is destroying our bliss, the very reason for all this
It seems as if all my love poems to her have been forgot
Now I'm confused and don't know if she loves me or not
My old romantic heart is baffled, broken and bleeding
No one knows the troubles I've seen and help I'm needing
Fraught with all these love thoughts I continue pleading.

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

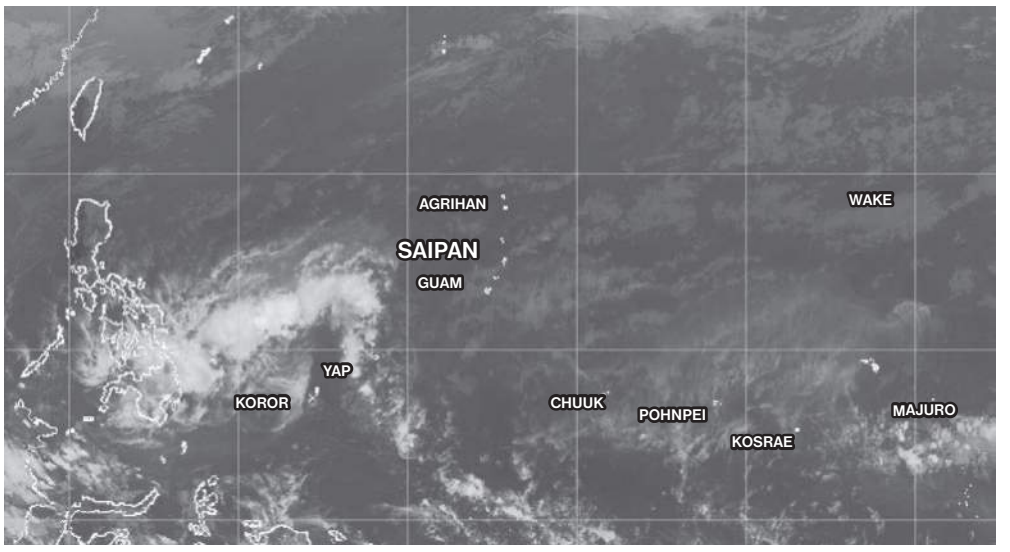
Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 70s.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 70s.
85° 75°	85° 75	85° 76°	86° 75°	86° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:44 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Guam and Rota Waters. There could also be isolated showers moving through the Tinian and Saipan waters, maybe the beam is overshooting the tops. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 7 to 9 feet, which are now trending toward the low end of that range. These are composed mainly of east trade-wind swell and east-northeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	28 / 24 °F
Palau	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	AM Showers	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:43 AM	18:19 PM
Saturday	06:42 AM	18:19 PM
Sunday	06:42 AM	18:19 PM
Monday	06:42 AM	18:20 PM
Tuesday	06:41 AM	18:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	02:14 PM	13:40 PM
Saturday	-	03:05 PM	14:28 PM
Sunday	-	03:57 PM	15:19 PM
Monday	-	04:47 PM	16:13 PM
Tuesday	-	05:35 PM	17:07 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Light Rain	26 / 23 °F
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	10 / -2 °F
Hong Kong	AM Clouds/PM Sun	20 / 16 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	28 / 19 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	8 / 3 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	31 / 13 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	32 / 25°F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	21 / 14 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	25 / 20 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny	11 / 7 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	11 / 2 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	12 / 4 °F
Busan	Mostly Sunny	12 / 24°F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	16 / 5 °F
Salem	Sunny	20 / 6 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	21 / 8 °F
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	8 / -4 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloud	7 / -1 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	16 / 10 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
05:52 AM	High Tide	1.34
10:10 AM	Low Tide	1.15
2:46 PM	High Tide	1.42
10:52 PM	Low Tide	-0.07

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	3, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Love in all directions

By ERICKA SANTIAGO
SALES ASSOCIATE

Stumped for ideas on what to do this Valentine's Day. Saipan Tribune gives a rundown of all things Valentine's Day-related so you don't have to worry your head about a thing.

Joeten Shopping Center is your one stop shop for great deals on gifts and grocery items to whip up a romantic meal at home. They will be having a Valentine's Day Weekend Sale from Feb. 12 through 14. Enjoy 25% off on ladies' dresses and blouses, men's shirt and pants, electrical appliances, and shoes and sandals. Other items like cosmetics, candies, and chocolates for the holiday are 20% off. Joeten Shopping Center also has discounts on their wine, beer, chicken, pork spareribs and baby back ribs, smoked ham, butane gas, and other market items. Visit Joeten's four branches in Susupe, Garapan, Dandan, and Kagman.

For more information, call (670) 234-6446/48.

Docomo Pacific CNMI is offering a deal you can't refuse. Get two months free internet, Apple AirPods pro, CIG DeskPod, and a bonus of basic installation when you bundle your home internet and mobile services with any iPhone 13 series on LINK starting at $95 per month. This deal is available to new and existing customers. Get your loved ones a gift and get in on the savings Docomo is offering. Pair up to save up! Stop by their Gualo Rai branch today.

For more information, visit docomopacific.com or call (670) 488-CARE.

Blossoms Floral is offering unlimited expressions for lasting impressions. Valentine's Day is not complete without flowers. To show your love and appreciation for your special someone, choose an arrangement of three, half dozen, or one dozen roses. They also offer gift baskets that could include chocolates, candies, stuffed animals, candles, hand soaps, lotion, and more.

Visit their Gualo Rai shop located on the 1st floor of J.E.T. Building or call (670) 235-2276/7372 for more information.

IT&E wants you to find true love with their iPhone deals. Enjoy savings on the iPhone 12 mini when you sign up for the Unlimited Plan on a 12-month term. Stay in touch with your loved ones through this small but mighty device. You are automatically entered to win a Roku Smart Soundbar or more amazing prizes when you purchase by Feb. 13. Their drawing will be held on Valentines Day and winners will be contacted directly. Don't miss this sweet deal and head down to their store at Chalan Laulau.

Visit their website, ite.net for more information.

Aqua Resort Club is the place you want to celebrate your love with a romantic dinner experience at Kevin's. Their dinner package includes the chef's five-course menu, exclusive seating at Kevin's, and a complimentary glass of sparkling wine. The special menu includes seared tuna with mango salsa, bisque cream soup, sweet pumpkin, homemade citrus sorbet, beef rib-eye, eggplant caponata, domino potato, and capped with a sweet treat, a valentine dark chocolate cake. This Valentine's Day dinner promo is available on Feb. 13 and 14 for only $75 per person.

For reservations, call (670)322-1234 ext-731.

MG Mall has love and deals in the air. All items are on sale for 20% off from Feb. 11 to Feb. 16. Valentine's Day is not only for lovers, but for all those we love. The store has a variety of gift items for all ages. This includes humidifiers, flower balloons, ladies' bags, and more.

Visit their store in Chalan Piao located next to Hopwood Junior High school or call (670)235-0072.

#lovenotes

To C.A.,
Happy Valentine's Day! Thank you for putting up with my annoying-ness. I love and appreciate you very much..
T.B.

To my Elaia,
Always remember that I am so thankful to God for giving me such a wonderful daughter. You're my everything, my love, and my life. Mama loves you so much!
It's meh! Mama Ela

Dear Mommy,
I will forever love you. You are my first love. You are the person that has my back and will love me under any circumstance. Happy valentine's day! You'll always be my valentine!
Love, Isaiah

To my lovely Christina,
The amount of times I have paused my anime for you is countless but my love for you is limitless. The love you give is more than anyone could ask for. Never doubt yourself because God knows how much love a person can give. always look up and keep on smiling. Happy Valentine's Day and I love you 4ever <3
From A.A.

Dear Mom and Dad,
Thank you guys for everything that you do, and I appreciate all the hard work and love you give to me and the boys! Happy Valentine's Day, We love you.
- Vicente, Aiden, & Chance

To Ladyvir my Forever Love,
Happy Valentine's Day! I love you forever. Thank you for everything!
From Jhun C.

To Benjamin Petersburg,
It is nice to know that at the end of the day someone loves us, appreciates us, supports us and respects us. Thank you for makin' us feel special every day and not just on Valentine's Day. - Nola and the girls

To my Pangga Mike,
No matter the distance.
No matter the circumstance.
I choose you everyday.
Happy Valentine's Day! -N

Dear Icesac,
Thank you for all that you've done since we've been together. To this day I continue to admire you for the person you are. I love you forever. Happy Valentine's Day! From Patricia

Alma Famat (Mother Dearest),
If resilience can be a person, you'd be the exact person I would think of. I can never put it into words how strong you are ma and how you are still so full of love and joy. Regardless of the things we go through as a mother and daughter or financially, you never fail to show me the love and care you have for me. You aren't perfect, but that's what I love about you the most. You're imperfect but you're still the baddest :p ml love you forever!
- Your coolest daughter Ina!

Dear Vaniqa,
Happy Valentine's Day my love! You always seem to brighten up my day even though we don't get to see each other every day. I'm very thankful to have you in my life and I love and appreciate everything thing you do for me. Have an amazing day my love. <3 Love, Andrew

Mahal "En-en" ng buhay ko,
No matter what I will always love you. No matter how hard the situation we have right now. Thank you for coming into my life. I will cherish every moment with you. Love you Mahal! - Mahal

To My Dearest Bestie,
With our Valentine's celebration a little bit delayed, I'd still like to thank you for being there for me through all the good and bad, even when you were miles away from home for quite a while and for being the most patient, protective, and supporting person that ever existed in my life. You deserve so much in this world, never forget that. I love you always and I'm proud of you in everything you do.
Your favorite hehe ;)

To my best friend and big brother in one (Boboy), I will never ever get tired of saying and sharing all the things you've taught me and reminding others that you raised me to be this inspiring or joyful person they all love. I mostly won't ever get tired of sharing how my big brother saved me. I would have never seen the more in life or my why, if you hadn't opened my eyes. You are my rock. And I could not express how much I love you. I deeply appreciate you bestie
Your soul sister, nina

Dear Luvs,
Thank you for being so patient and loving. I am forever grateful to be loved by you. With you, there is never a dull moment. Knowing you're around makes life a lot sweeter. Thank you for supporting my goals and reminding me that you're always proud of me. You are such a hard worker and know I'll always be rooting for you! Happy Valentine's Day, I love you! - Khristelle

To My Favorite Parskii,
Happy Valentines. Thank you for all you have done for me and all that you continue to do for us. The little things will always be big for me every time it comes from you. You're my best friend and my sweetest lover. I love you with all of me, and all of my heart! -Bear's Pops

To the best Momma Venus,
I love you to the moon and back! I appreciate all the things you do and god knows how much you put in for us. Happy Valentine's Day, stay beautiful and forever prosper!
- Aloy A.

What's your love language?

Love is more than just saying 'I love you'

By IVA MAURIN
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hearing the words "I love you" may be music to the ears but that's not necessarily the only way love is conveyed. Are you frustrated because people around you just won't say "I love you" to you? Did you even think that perhaps they just have a different love language?

What is that, you ask. At its core, it just means that we all give and receive love in different ways. Dr. Gary Chapman, in his over 35 years as a marriage counselor, has identified five love languages that people use to express their love the most—words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch.

Chapman authored the book, The 5 Love Languages, to help people effectively communicate love, explaining that "what makes one person feel loved will not make another person feel loved, and that people "must discover and speak each other's love language."

Your love language depends on your personality, so does your partner's, or everyone else in your family or friend group. Love is about commitment and understanding, and to have these, you need to learn to communicate—a helpful first step is learning each other's love language.

The 5 Love Languages

1. Words of Affirmation.

If your loved ones' love language is "words of affirmation," compliments and saying "I love you" or "Hu guaiya hao" to them will make them feel most cherished. People who have this love language get a high when hearing—or even reading (especially now, with the digital age!) words that show how much you appreciate them, what you love about them, and how you value being with them. On the other hand, insults can hurt and break their hearts so be mindful of the words you say around them, just as you would with others.

IVA MAURIN

If your loved one's love language is "words of affirmation," express how much you love them by telling them that you do. Sending them text messages, letters, or cards expressing how much you appreciate them and how much they mean the world to you would make their heart flutter.

Know a loved one whose love language is "words of affirmation"? Go ahead and tell them (even via text!) how much you do. Say and mean phrases like, "I appreciate and love you," "I believe in you. You got this!", "You are absolutely glowing at the beach," or "You are my role model." A love letter will go a really long way to keep them inspired and in love.

2. Quality Time.

If your loved ones' love language is "quality time," what they will most appreciate is your undivided time and attention. This means being present when you are with them—and not be constantly checking your phone, watching something on TV, listening to music, or tinkering with your gadgets when with them. Make them feel loved by cutting off all these "distractions" and listening fully to what they say, or simply just being with them fully. Postponing dates

IVA MAURIN

Stop checking your phone and give your loved one your undivided attention if their love language is "quality time."

See LANGUAGE on Next Page

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LANGUAGE

From Page 12

or failing to listen to them are things that can hurt them, so make sure to commit your full attention.

Know a loved one whose love language is "quality time"? Go ahead and spend a day together just lounging by Micro Beach or at the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park, or even just at home, and truly listen to what they have to say, fully committing to doing what they want to do with you.

3. Receiving Gifts.

If your loved ones' love language is "receiving gifts," well-thought-of gifts and gestures will make their hearts happier. Be aware that this is not about being materialistic, but rather more of the thought-process that went behind giving the gift or on doing something for someone. Neither is it also about how big or expensive the gift is but the meaning—and the effort—behind the gift or the gesture. Also

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If "receiving gifts" is your loved one's love language, well-thought-of gifts and gestures are what will make her most happy. Keep in mind that it is not about being materialistic, but the thought behind the gift that tells them you love them.

make sure to not miss their birthdays or anniversary!

Know a loved one whose love language is "receiving gifts"? If you know they love flowers, why don't you pick up plumerias even from your garden and randomly surprise your loved one with it? Know they love coffee? Perhaps get them a cute coffee mug or a gift card from their favorite café on island. They want a special dish? Why not cook it from scratch and surprise them with it?

4. Acts of Service

If your loved ones' love language is "acts of service," the best thing to make them feel appreciated is to go out of your way and make things a little easy for them. Someone who has this for a love language wants more than just

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Go out of your way and make things a little easy for your loved ones if their love language is "acts of service." Happily do chores for them, cook them a meal if you see that they are extremely busy with work or with family.

"lip service" and would be happier with little random acts from you, because that would mean to them that you have thought about what they really need, and have given them time and effort.

Know a loved one whose love language is "acts of service"? Perhaps, your partner has been overburdened with caring for your children and has no more energy and time to do other chores. Happily doing the laundry, preparing the meal, or washing the dishes could make your partner feel loved. Your parents love to garden? Why don't you volunteer to bushwhack or rake, or trim or compost? The key here is to be happy to do things for your loved ones, and not do it because you are obliged to do it.

5. Physical Touch

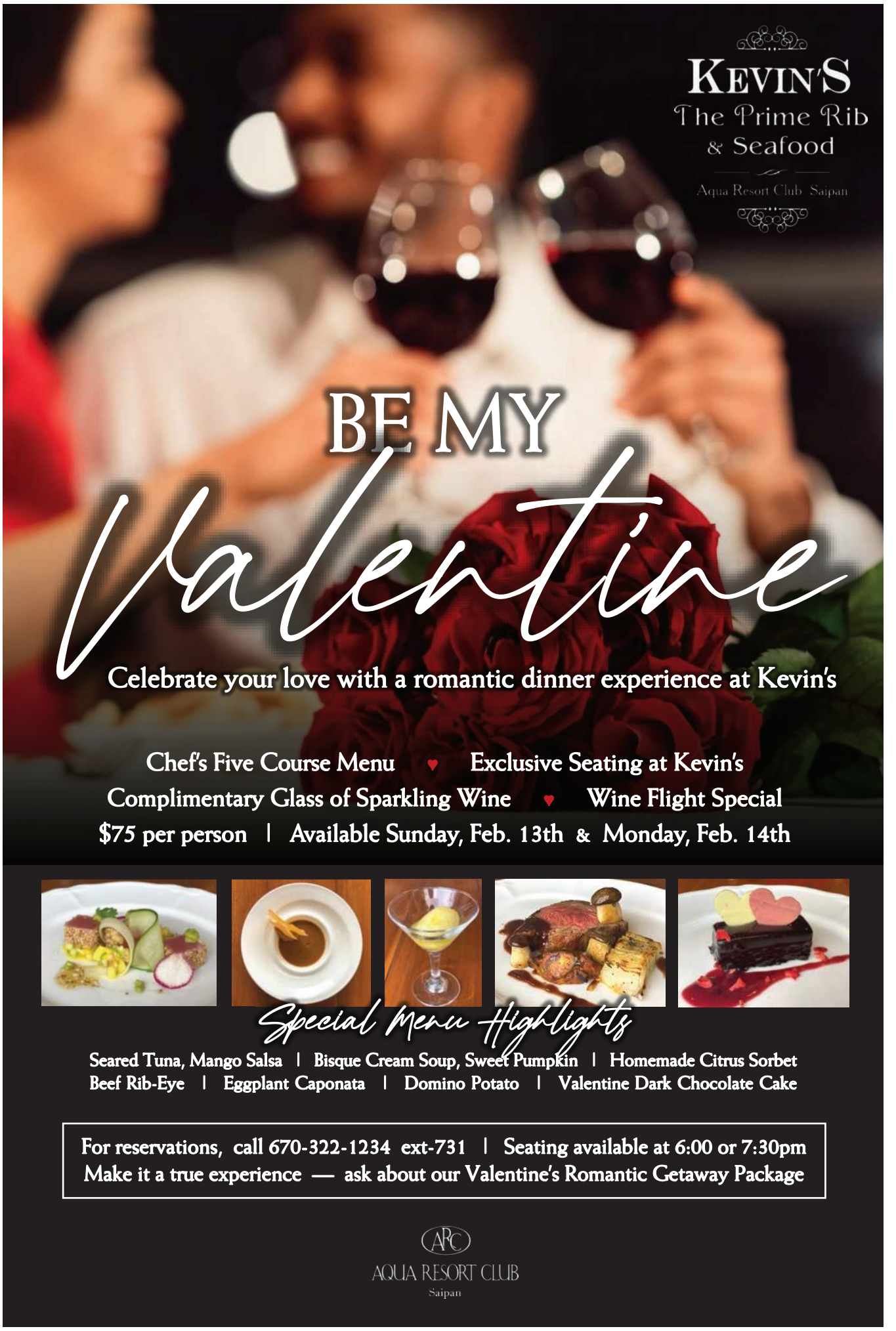
If your loved ones' love language is "physical touch," they are at their happiest when you are intimate with them. As a partner, this does not necessarily mean being erotic, but rather more on feeling safe and connected when held, touched, or kissed—of course all with consent. Touch and physical intimacy is important and better appreciated than gifts or verbal expressions of love. Someone whose love language is "physical touch" would love you to be physically present or accessible.

IVA MAURIN

Your loved ones are at their happiest when you are intimate with them if their love language is "physical touch." They feel safe and appreciated when held, touched, and kissed. Being present is important for them.

Know a loved one whose love language is "physical touch"? Make them feel loved by hugging and kissing them, or plainly just being around them. When you are out and about, hold their hand. When you are at a party, make sure they to not leave them all alone, or at least make sure they can easily access you if they need to. Express love through thoughtful touches and through your presence.

Wondering if "quality time" is your primary love language? If you are curious to know what yours is, find out at https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/love-language.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Eight ways to enjoy Feb. 14 on your own

By IVA MAURIN
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Valentine's Day is not just for couples but for everyone you love—including yourself. Also, it is not the only thing being celebrated on Feb. 14. There's a growing movement of people celebrating the International Quirkyalone Day which is about all kinds of love, like self-love.

On your own this year? Here are a few ways to enjoy Feb. 14:

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
What cooler way to celebrate being happily single on Valentine's Day than gathering all your single friends and throwing a party!

1. Throw a party. What cooler way to celebrate being happily single on Valentine's Day than gathering all your single friends and throwing a party! Get together and celebrate your awesome, beautiful, talented selves. Rent one of those B&Bs, lounge by the pool, host a game night, jam like a rock star, rent a tent by Micro Beach, sing your hearts out at a karaoke bar, or munch on some popcorns while having an at-home movie marathon. Cheers to friendship!

2. Earn cash. Aside from the fact that Feb. 14 falls on a Monday this year (a work day for most people), you may be able to earn extra cash by babysitting for couples who are looking to spend time away from their children to go on a date. You could also take advantage of what talent you may have. Know how to play the ukulele? Offer services to play some love songs for a private date. Know how to paint? Organize a special "love-themed" paint class on Valentine's Day.

IVA MAURIN
Earn money! Baby sit for couples who are looking to spend some time away from their children this Valentine's Day.

3. Pamper yourself. You've been working hard, giving all your energy to others year-round, so why not dedicate Valentine's Day to giving back to yourself and loving yourself more? Been longing to get a haircut, have a mani-pedi, or a makeover? Do it. Book a spa, schedule a massage, and have the ultimate rest day. Unplug and have a social media detox. Catch up on sleep. Be good at loving yourself.

IVA MAURIN
Pamper yourself and get that makeover or spa therapy you have been wanting to have for the longest.

4. Volunteer. You have a lot of love to give so share them by spending time with, or doing things for others. Spread love by volunteering! Reach out to the Man'Amko Center, at the American Memorial Park, or at Saipan Cares for Animals, and see if there is anything you can help them with. There are many charity groups and non-profit organizations on island that will surely welcome all the care and love you can offer. You'll never know how far and impactful your love can do to those who need it the most.

5. Learn something new. Have you been wanting to learn how to cook a fancy dish, or how to bake a cake? Watch some recipe and "how to" videos on YouTube, make sure to get all that you need (ingredients and tools), and start cooking for one—or for your friends and family! Your newfound talent might even lead to something bigger, like a side hustle and make life even grander for you in the years to come.

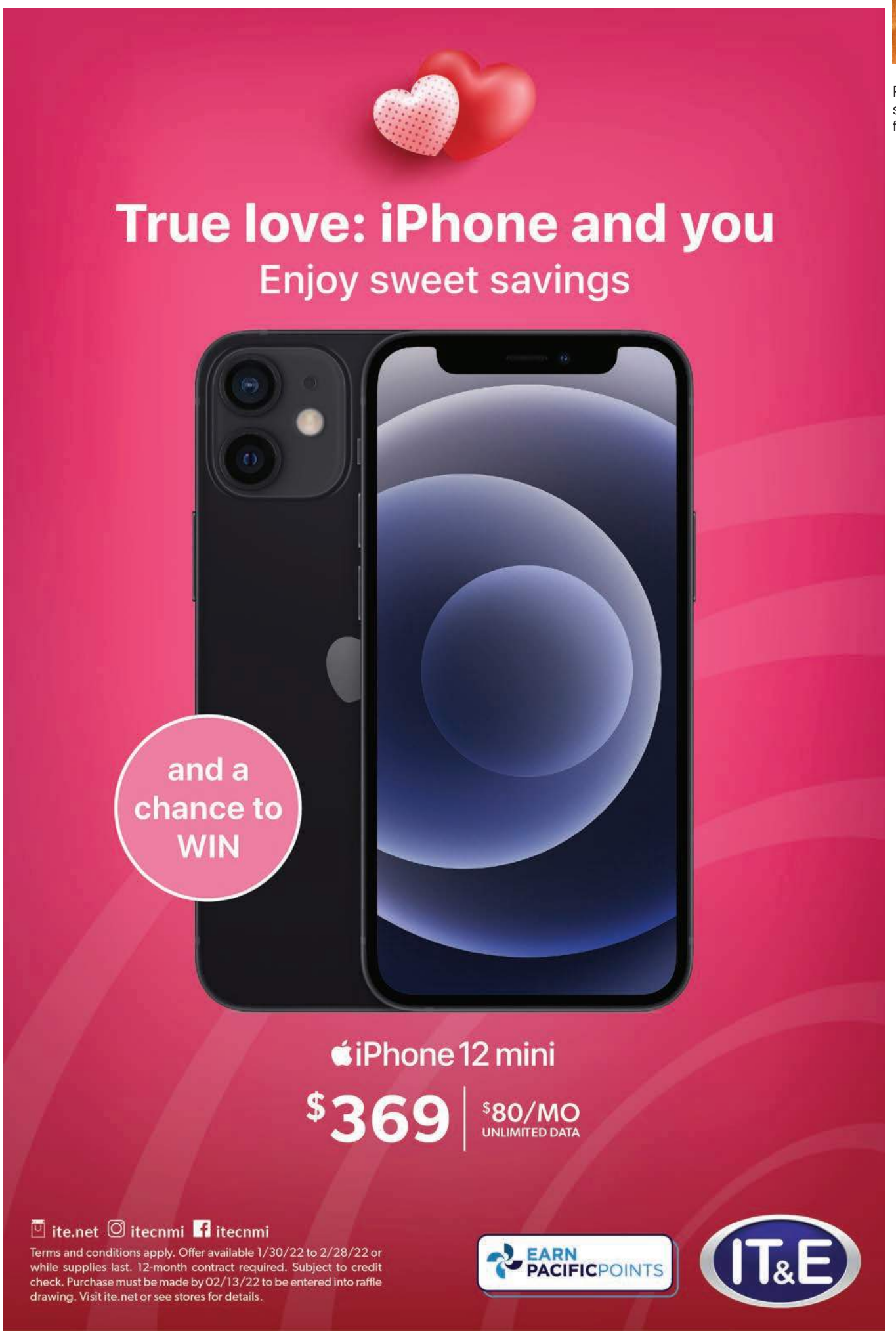
IVA MAURIN
Been wanting to know how to turn all those bananas into cake? Learn something new like baking this Valentine's Day.

6. Declutter. Just as one does not really need a partner to celebrate Valentine's Day, why not check your house for anything that you no longer, or do not really need? Take a look at your closet and see if you have clothes, shoes, or accessories that no longer make you happy, and donate or sell them. Check your cupboards and fridge, see if there are things that are already way expired and throw them away! Out with the old and the excess to make room for an even better life ahead.

IVA MAURIN
Out with the old, in with the new. This Valentine's Day, check your closet and get rid of stuff that no longer makes you happy.

7. Explore the island. If you haven't done it yet, why not play "tourist" on Valentine's Day? Check out all the "destina-

See EIGHT on Page 16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It's a date!

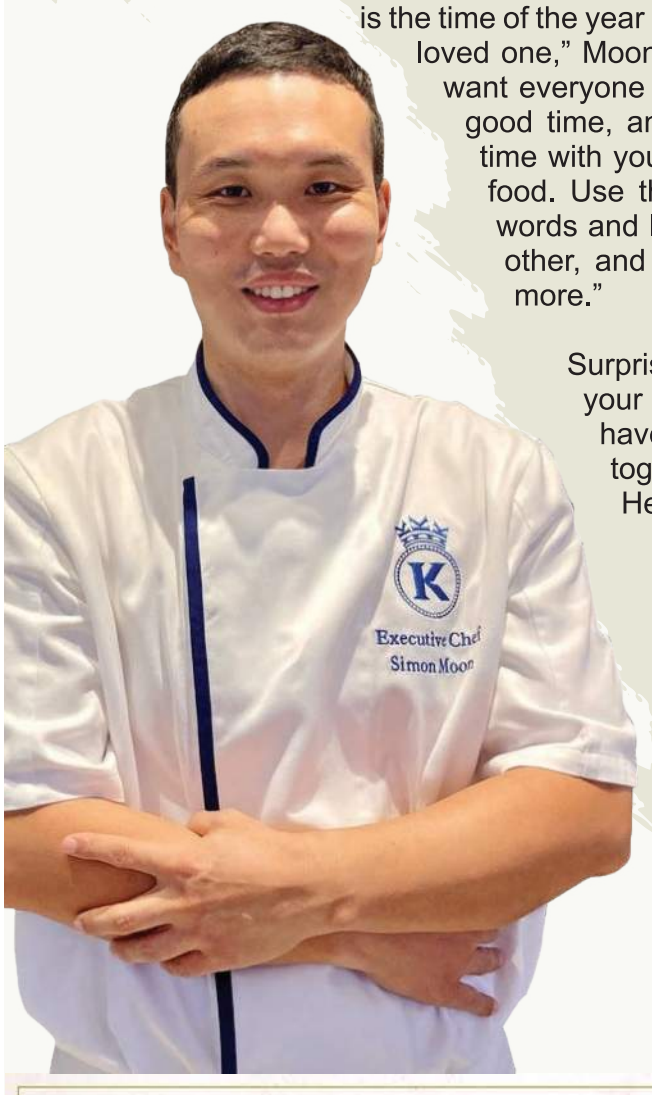
Elevate Valentine's Day with meals you're sure to love

By **IVA MAURIN**
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

One of the sweetest things you can do for someone you love is to cook for them, so make this Valentine's Day even more special by going all out and creating simple (but definitely fancy!) dishes—à la chef!

Kensington executive chef Simon Sungchul Moon shares two easy-to-make Valentine's Day recipes that will surely delight your loved one. These dishes are simple yet presentable, with hints of color that will carry the Valentine's spirit to the palate.

As a bonus, Kensington pastry chef Sungwon Hong also shares his soft and moist fondant chocolate recipe, because what's Valentine's Day without some chocolate. Top it all with good quality wine.



"Valentine's Day is meant to be very special. It is the time of the year that you spend with your loved one," Moon told Saipan Tribune. "I want everyone on the island to have a good time, and to spend even more time with your loved ones with good food. Use this time to share warm words and love messages for each other, and to cook for each other more."

Surprise your sweetheart with your cooking. Better yet, have a kitchen date together! Ready to cook? Here are the recipes:

> "Use your own creativity. There is no one answer when it comes to food."

MARPAC'S SUGGESTION

Pair with Rota Sweet Potato Soup

A rich, decadent take on a timeless varietal.Butterkissed Chardonnay has a smooth, creamy mouthfeel, with luscious buttery notes and hints of vanilla, white peach and citrus zest.

MARPAC'S SUGGESTION

Pair with Butter Lobster with Crispy Quinoa Salad

Crafted with fine bubbles that dance on the palate, Cupcake Vineyards' Sparkling Rosé wine has delightful flavors of fresh raspberry, wild strawberry and mandarin orange with subtle floral notes.

MARPAC'S SUGGESTION

Pair with Chocolate Fondant

This rich, silky red blend has notes of cherry, blackberry, chocolate and mocha that fill the palate, while soft hints of vanilla and toasted oak lead to an intense and lengthy finish.

Starter:

Rota Sweet Potato Soup

Ingredients:
300g Rota sweet potato
100g white onion
100g butter
150ml cream
100ml Milk
50g sugar
30g salt

1. Remove the sweet potato skin.
2. Chop into pieces.
3. Slice the onions.
4. Put butter in a pan and sauté sweet potato and onion until the onion is browned.
5. Pour 50ml milk and 50ml cream onto the sautéed sweet potato and onion.
6. Boil until ingredients are fully cooked and soft.
7. Pour everything in the blender and puree.
8. For garnish, julienne (cut into thin pieces) a sweet potato and deep-fry them. *(You can bake them in the oven or fry in air fryer instead.)*
9. Add milk, cream, sugar, and salt. Place the deep-fried sweet potato on top of the sweet potato/onion puree.

Main Course:

Butter Lobster with Crispy Quinoa Salad

Ingredients:
1 lobster tail
Half avocado
100g quinoa
30g red onion
30g raisin
30ml olive oil
20ml pickle juice *(100ml water, 50ml 100g sugar, 10g salt, 30g pickling spice)*
5g salt
5g black pepper
50ml Orange juice
30g butter

1. Remove the skin of the lobster and blanch it in boiling water. *(When water is being boiled, add onion, carrot, and whole pepper.)*
2. Cool the blanched lobster and then cut it into bite-size pieces.
3. Put butter in a pan and fry the lobster pieces. Set aside
4. Cook quinoa in boiling water. Once it is cooked, deep fry half of the cooked quinoa.
5. Mix the deep-fried quinoa with the rest of quinoa. Set aside.
6. Chop onions and raisins into tiny pieces.
7. Mix the cooked quinoa, chopped onions, raisins and pickle juice, olive oil, salt, black pepper in a bowl.
8. Simmer orange juice until it is boiled down to half its original amount. When it is about a half, turn off the heat and add the butter.
9. In a serving plate, put the quinoa salad at the bottom layer and place the lobster on top of it. Pour orange butter sauce over arrangement.
10. You can add garnish such as fresh leaves, flying fish roe (Tobikos), and others, not only to make it more presentable but also to give it extra texture.

Note: Lobster can be replaced with meat or tofu, depending on your loved one's dietary preferences.

Dessert:

Chocolate Fondant for Valentine's Day

Ingredients (makes 5 small cups):
150g dark chocolate
50g butter
150g egg
45g sugar
35g cake flour

1. Melt the chocolate and butter together by using a microwave.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs with sugaruntil it is well-mixed.
3. Add whisked eggs and sugar to melted chocolate and butter, and stir until well-mixed.
4. Sift the cake flour into the mixture and beat together until it is completely combined.
5. Cool the finished dough in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
6. Use a piping bag or ice cream scoop to fill your small cup only 70% full.
7. Bake it in an oven at 180 degrees for 15 minutes.

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VOX POPULI: What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

By IVA MAURIN
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

While Valentine's Day is usually meant a day to celebrate love, there are many others who see it as just another day, a Super Bowl day for football fans, or Quirkyalone Day for those who want to celebrate themselves. Your day, your celebration.

For this Vox Populi, we asked around what Valentine's Day is for some people on island. As a bonus, we also asked them how people can express love without actually saying "I love you."

Sablan

"Valentine's Day is a day of awareness where we recognize what makes us human and alive—our emotions. It is a day we celebrate that part of our humanity. One can show love through the way they treat others, in action. A wise man once told me, you see a person's character through the things they do for people who can't do anything for them. To me, that's love."

—Tyra Lyn Sablan

Caleon

"Love from my family means Valentine's Day is everyday for me. How can one express love? By giving them flowers, kissing, embracing and, most of all, spending time with them. Valentine's Day is special not only for couples and those who are in love. It is also for those who are busy and who have been forgotten. You can also express love and celebrate with friends and family. Show them how grateful and blessed you are to have them in your life. Valentine's is also an opportunity to pamper and care for your loved ones, so it is a great time to bring them to our salon here in Middle Road."

—Michelle Caleon, Perfect Image Beauty Salon

Staffler

"Valentine's Day means a day to share and be reminded of the people you love the most. Valentine's Day is for everyone! Moms, dads, cousins, grandparents, and children too! I have always loved that book about love languages because it's a perfect example of how we can share love without actually saying it. These range from acts of service, to praise, to physical touch to gifting, to spending quality time. We often will give love the way we want to receive it. I always seem to be drawn toward acts of service and quality time. When I love someone I will show it in those ways."

—Rep. Leila Staffler

"To me, Valentine's Day is the ultimate reminder to appreciate the love that we have and receive in our lives. Through this pandemic and all the hardships, we still have loved ones that continue to help us in our lives. Happy Valentine's Day to all those folks. Also, how can one best express love without saying "I love you"? We all know the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words' and showing someone that you love them does not only mean giving affection. It also includes being kind, respectful, understanding, and patient. But there are many other ways to express love, these are just a few."

—James Benavente

Nelson

"My husband and I have made a point to NOT celebrate Valentine's Day. No cards, no chocolate, no flowers. Neither of us likes the idea of only a single day to make a point of showing how we feel. I'd rather have coffee made for me and a kiss on the way out the door on a random Tuesday than a special day once a year."

—Ali Nelson

Ignacio

"Actually, everyday must be Valentine's Day. Seeing your partner, son or daughter is what makes it so special. A simple hug is more than enough to say I love you."

—Francis Ignacio

Danaher

"For me, Valentine's Day is a day to reflect on those I love and to let them know how much I value them. A small act of kindness, like cooking their favorite meal or surprising them with their favorite candy—something to let them know I appreciate them. It's a chance to thank them for giving me the gift of loving them. I think the best way to express love without saying 'I love you' is to practice selfless acts of patience and kindness, especially during moments when they aren't acting very lovable!"

—Arron Danaher

Santos

"Valentine's Day means appreciating and loving someone unconditionally, not for who he or she is but for what he or she is. One can best express love without saying 'I love you' by giving your utmost attention, and most of all, by respecting and caring for the person wholly."

—Sen. Teresita Santos

Cruz

"Valentine's Day is a day to show your love to your families and friends. Every year, my mom sends me a Valentine's Day gift. Not necessarily that it is your husband/boyfriend or wife/girlfriend is the celebrant, but it's all the people who you feel you love. The best way to express love without saying 'I love you' is to spend time with your families and friends. Time is something that we can never take back and [it] feels so heartwarming when people take the time to greet you, meet with you, call you, or just be with you. That's most precious to me when it comes to showing a person that I love them."

—Zabrina Mae S. Cruz

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EIGHT

From Page 14

IVA MAURIN
Play tourist on Valentine's Day. Explore the islands and fall in love with the CNMI all over again.

tions" on island, and discover—or rediscover—how beautiful it truly is. You can even get your other single friends to join you (or your family!), come up with a scavenger hunt—to ensure you will all have fun on your island adventure. Valentine's Day is a great day to fall in love with the Marianas.

8. Write love letters. Make hearts happier through love letters. Let your family and friends know how much they mean to you by writing to them. Write about your favorite memories with them, remind them about something they said that made you feel loved, thank them for all that they do for you, and share some things you would love to do—or dream destinations you would love to visit—with them. Don't forget to write a love letter to yourself too. Write about all the great things you do, and all the sweet traits that make yourself you.

Being single does not mean you can't have fun on Valentine's Day. You may actually have way too much fun. So relax, enjoy, and celebrate yourself!

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Valentine's Day Weekend Sale

Happy Valentine's Day

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A Valentine's Day Family Food Fest

Here are some family favorites, courtesy of award-winning chef Samson Tan, who is the 2021 Taste of the Marianas winner.

Kadun Pika

Tan

3lbs stewing chicken, adobo cut
1cup Yamasa soy sauce
1cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 pc. yellow onion sliced
1 head garlic bulb crushed
4 stalk lemon grass
1 tsp ground black pepper
8 pcs crushed finger chili
1 pack achiote powder
2 cups water

1. Combine all ingredients and marinate the chicken pieces for at least 30 minutes.
2. Sauté in a pan with oil, medium high heat until brown
3. Boil and cover in a pan with tight fitting lid.
4. Bake in a 350f oven for 90mins or a pressure cooker for 1hour.
5. Add one (1) can coconut milk and adjust the taste.

Note: Best with freshly cooked steamed rice and a glass of Chardonnay

Pan Seared New York Strip Steak

2 New York Strip Steak
2 tbsp olive oil (extra virgin)
3 cloves of garlic
1 tbsp butter
Salt and pepper
Fresh herbs [preferably thyme and rosemary]

1. Generously season both sides of the steak with salt and pepper.
2. Heat the olive oil on your pan and place steak, garlic, and herbs.
3. Once one side of the steak gets brown or caramelized, turn it over to cook the other side.
4. Cook until brown then add butter. Wait for the butter to melt.
5. When plating, add the juices from the pan unto the steak, along with the herbs and garlic.
6. Salt and pepper to taste.

Business

After 2 years, Philippines opens to foreign travelers

AP

Members of the Philippine Coast Guard assist passengers as they arrive at Manila's International Airport, Philippines Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines lifted a nearly two-year ban on foreign travelers Thursday in a lifesaving boost for its tourism and related industries as an omicron-fueled surge eases.

Foreign travelers from 157 countries with visa-free arrangements with the Philippines who have been fully vaccinated and tested negative for the virus will be welcomed back and will no longer be required to quarantine upon arrival. The government also ended a risk classification system that banned travelers from the worst-hit countries.

"We will begin the next chapter in the road to recovery," Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat said. She added the border reopening would restore jobs and generate revenue across tourism-related enterprises and communities.

The Philippines imposed one of the world's longest lockdowns and strictest police-enforced quarantine restrictions to quell a pandemic that caused its worst economic recession since the 1940s and pushed unemployment and hunger to record levels.

More than a million Filipinos lost their jobs in tourism businesses and destinations in the first year of the pandemic alone, according to government statistics. Tourism destinations, including popular beach and tropical island resorts, resembled ghost towns at the height of pandemic lockdowns, and a volcanic eruption and typhoons exacerbated losses.

The reopening had been set for Dec. 1 but was postponed as the highly contagious omicron variant of the coronavirus spread.

Less than a thousand new cases were added daily during the Christmas holidays, when large crowds of shoppers trooped back to malls and restaurants despite constant government warnings. The subsequent surge peaked above 39,000 infections in a day in mid-January, but has since eased. Health officials reported about 3,600 infections on Wednesday, with 69 deaths and have declared the entire archipelago, except for one southern region, at "low to moderate risk."

More than 60 million of nearly 110 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus and 8.2 million have received their booster shots in a campaign that has been hampered by vaccine shortages and public hesitancy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US inflation might have hit a new 40-year high in January

WASHINGTON (AP)—With American consumers spending freely and many supply chains still snarled, year-over-year inflation may have notched yet another four-decade high in January.

The factors that have accelerated prices since last spring remain largely in place: Wages are rising at the fastest pace in at least 20 years. Ports and warehouses are overwhelmed, with hundreds of workers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the nation's busiest, out sick last month. Many products and parts remain in short supply as a result. And reports indicate that the expiration of stimulus checks and other government aid has yet to slow Americans' appetite for shopping. Economists have forecast that when the Labor Department reports January's inflation figures Thursday, it will show that consumer prices jumped 7.3% compared with 12 months ago, according to data provider FactSet. That would be up from a 7.1% year-over-year pace in December and would mark the biggest such increase since February 1982.

Uber posts 4Q profit as ride-hailing service bounces back

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Uber's ride-hailing service edged closer to returning to its pre-pandemic levels during the final three months of last year, but its prospects remain clouded by the future direction of the novel coronavirus that has plagued its business. The San Francisco-based company's fourth-quarter results Wednesday came in above analysts' projections. But Uber's forecast for the current January-March period was slightly below what Wall Street had been hoping, suggesting that the omicron variant may have dented the ride-hailing service at the outset of the new year. That minor letdown evidently didn't dampen investors' excitement about Uber's progress at the end of last year. Its shares rose by about 6% in extended trading after the news came out. Even so, Uber's stock price still remains more than 30% below its peak of roughly $64 reached about a year ago.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Toxicologist: Drugs, 'excited delirium' didn't kill Floyd

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A toxicologist testified at the federal trial of three former officers charged with violating George Floyd's civil rights that it wasn't drug use, heart disease nor an agitated state known as "excited delirium" that caused Floyd's death after officers pinned him to the pavement in May 2020. In testimony Wednesday, Dr. Vik Bebarta, an emergency physician and toxicologist and professor at the University of Colorado in suburban Denver, bolstered the prosecution's contention that Floyd died because of how Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee down on the Black man's neck for 9 1/2 minutes as he pleaded "I can't breathe." He also backed up other experts who have faulted officers for failing to roll Floyd on his side, as they had been trained, so that he could have breathed freely. Former Officers J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao are accused of depriving Floyd, 46, of his civil rights by failing to give him medical aid while he was handcuffed, facedown outside a convenience store where he allegedly tried to pass a counterfeit $20 bill.

2 killed in shooting; suspect flees, crashes into school bus

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Two people were shot and killed in a home in Pennsylvania's capital early Wednesday by a man who also wounded three others, including two children, authorities said Wednesday. The suspect, Gregory Greene Jr., 31, led police on a car chase that ended with him crashing into a school bus carrying several students, authorities said. No children on the bus were reported injured. Dauphin County District Attorney Fran Chardo told WGAL-TV that police were in the area serving an unrelated search warrant when they were approached by a victim who had blood on them, and who directed officers to a home where the victims were found. The dead were identified as Meredith Greene and Tyler Thames. Shot and wounded was Brittonie Meredith, while Greene stabbed two girls, ages 6 and 7, according to charging documents posted online by Pennlive.com. The two girls identified their uncle, Gregory Greene Jr., as the attacker, and the victims were attacked before 7 a.m., the charging documents show.

Under pressure to ease up, Biden weighs new virus response

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing growing pressure to ease up on pandemic restrictions, the White House insisted Wednesday it is making plans for a less-disruptive phase of the national virus response. But impatient states, including Democratic New York, made clear they aren't waiting for Washington as public frustration grows. Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that New York will end its COVID-19 mandate requiring face coverings in most indoor public settings—but will keep it for schools. Illinois announced the same.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In God's Care

SOLEDAD TERLAJE

Lovingly known as "Daling"
Born to life on December 27, 1969
Called to Eternal life by our Dear Lord on January 27, 2022

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: †Rita C. Terlaje / †Julian Q. Reyes
†Ramon M. Sablan
Brother: †David Terlaje
Nephew: †Joseph Julian T. Reyes
Grandparents: †Jose Terlaje
†Regina C. Terlaje
Maternal Aunts/Uncle: †Vicente C. Terlaje
†Maria T. Palacios
†Antonia T. Woodworth
†Rosita T. /†Mark S. Pangelinan
†Jesus H. Sablan

Her spirits and memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: **David Terlaje** / Janice Babauta (Kawika Jr., Lika Malia, Barbralynn, Everly & Katara)
Jose Terlaje / Wandalynn Wally (Jose Jr.)
Jolleen T. Taimanao / Edwin S. Takai Jr. (Tristan John & Chloe-Mae)
Sisters/Brothers & In-Laws:
Janice R. / Julian Joseph R. Camacho (Jaydene Pearl)
Pauline R. / Mariano R. Iglecias (Ryan Casey/Keanah Faye, Marita Pauline / Shawn (Mariana Uniku), Hayley Gin, & Moira Ailaina / Christopher Sablan)
Joyce R. / Diony A. Camacho (Jonathan Julian, Jennifer Judith / Colin Sharpe, & Diony Jr.)
Antonette R. / Ray Ervin Manglona (Jaime Anthony, Laura Maria, Ray Ervin II, & Rita Mae)
Tina Marie S. / Vincent Peter L. Mesngon (Vina)
Ray T. / Lucy Ann S. Sablan (Ray Andy, CJ, Eliza Maria, & Ray Jr.)
Francisco R. / Janell T. Sablan (Maegan Breese & Brady Clark)
Andrea T. Sablan / Joaquin T. Fujihira (Lisa Lynn, Joaquin Jr., Mary Christine, Tionica, Angel Ray, & Klowee)
Rear Brothers: Edward / Reynee Terlaje
Vincent Q. Terlaje
Maternal Aunts / Uncles:
Annie T. / Frank Pickelsimer
Magdalena (Doll) T. /Mark Hazen & Family
Jose C. / Elizabeth Q. Terlaje & Family
Helen C. Sablan & Family
Maria L. Terlaje & Family
Don Woodworth & Family
Antonio A. Palacios & Family

Daily Mass is offered at San Jose Church from Mon – Sat at 6:00 p.m. and on Sun at 7:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. On Mon, February 14, 2022, her remains will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral for public viewing at 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11:00 a.m. followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated.
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Giniew I famagu'on-ña yan I familia

Asia

Indo-Pacific region to shape 21st century, says Blinken

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The United States remains focused long-term on the Indo-Pacific region despite concerns over Russian aggression toward the Ukraine, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday.

Blinken is in the Australian city of Melbourne for a meeting on Friday with his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan.

The four nations form the so-called "Quad," a bloc of Indo-Pacific democracies that was created to counter China's regional influence.

"There are a few other things going on in the world right now, some of you may have noticed. We have a bit of a challenge with Ukraine and Russian aggression. We're working 24/7 on that," Blinken said in his first public address since arriving in Australia on Wednesday.

"But we know, the president knows better than anyone else, that so much of this century is going to be shaped by what happens here in the Indo-Pacific region," he added.

The Indo-Pacific is the fastest growing region in the world, accounting for two-thirds of global economic growth over the past five years and home to half the world's population, Blinken said.

What matters in the region matters around the world and challenges like climate change and COVID-19 can't be tackled by any nation alone, he said.

"More than ever before, we need partnerships, we need alliances, we need coalitions of countries willing to put their efforts, their resources, their minds into tackling these problems," Blinken said.

Blinken

"What really drives us is a shared vision" of a "free and open society," he added.

Blinken's trip is designed to reinforce America's interests in Asia and its intent to push back against increasing Chinese assertiveness in the region. He will also visit Fiji and discuss pressing concerns about North Korea with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts in Hawaii.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, who will chair the Quad meeting, said the agenda would include COVID-19 vaccine distribution, cyber and critical technologies, countering malicious and dangerous disinformation, terrorism, maritime security and climate change. India will be represented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Japan by Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa.

"As a network of liberal democracies, we are committed to very practical cooperation and ensuring that all Indo-Pacific nations – large and small – are able to make their own strategic decisions and make those decisions free from coercion," Payne said.

In Beijing on Wednesday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian responded to a question about Blinken's visit with a lengthy attack on American democracy and a defense of China's contributions to the global order.

"With its so-called democracy having collapsed long ago, the U.S. is forcing other countries to accept the standards of the American democracy, drawing lines with democratic values and piecing together cliques. That is a complete betrayal of democracy," Zhao told reporters.

Blinken is expected to address threats posed by a growing partnership between authoritarian Russia and China, particularly after the Sunday meeting in Beijing between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the opening of the Winter Olympics.

The U.S. had hoped that the Xi-Putin meeting would have demonstrated Chinese wariness about Russia's military buildup along Ukraine's borders. But Xi was largely silent on the matter.

Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton expressed concern over the Russian-Chinese alliance and said the threat posed by China was growing.

"We know that our nation is facing the most complex and potentially catastrophic regional security environment since the Second World War," Dutton told Parliament on Thursday.

Blinken has a family link to Melbourne through his stepfather Samuel Pisar, a lawyer and U.S. presidential adviser who died in 2015.

ASIAN BRIEFS

New COVID surge batters Afghanistan's crumbling health care

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Only five hospitals in Afghanistan still offer COVID-19 treatment, with 33 others having been forced to close in recent months for lack of doctors, medicines and even heating. This comes as the economically devastated nation is hit by a steep rise in the number of reported coronavirus cases. At Kabul's only COVID-19 treatment hospital, staff can only heat the building at night because of lack of fuel, even as winter temperatures drop below freezing during the day. Patients are bundled under heavy blankets. Its director, Dr. Mohammed Gul Liwal, said they need everything, from oxygen to medicine supplies. The facility, called the Afghan Japan Communicable Disease Hospital, has 100 beds. The COVID-19 ward is almost always full as the virus rages. Before late January, the hospital was getting one or two new coronavirus patients a day. In the past two weeks, 10 to 12 new patients have been admitted daily, Liwal said.

S. Korea's outgoing president calls for US-North Korea talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Moon Jae-in, in his final months in office, has expressed concern over North Korea's expanding weapons program and the possibility it could resume nuclear and long-range missile tests that would revive fears of war in the region. Renewed tensions between Washington and Pyongyang have been a major setback for Moon, a dovish liberal and son of northern war refugees who staked his single presidential term on his ambitions for inter-Korean rapprochement. His written comments on North Korea and other topics were provided Thursday to The Associated Press and other news agencies. South Korea's presidential election is in March, and Moon leaves office in May after serving a five-year term. He called for a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Joe Biden to resolve deep disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions against the North and the North's disarmament steps.

World

Tonga's virus outbreak grows rapidly; omicron is confirmed

AP

In this photo provided by the Australian Defense Force, debris from damaged building and trees are strewn around on Atata Island in Tonga on Jan. 28, 2022, following the eruption of an underwater volcano and subsequent tsunami.

BANGKOK (AP)—Coronavirus cases continue to rise rapidly in Tonga, and tests have confirmed that the particularly contagious omicron variant is behind the isolated Pacific island nation's first community outbreak since the start of the pandemic, officials said Thursday.

Health Minister Saia Piukala told reporters that 31 more people had tested positive for the virus, nearly doubling Tonga's active cases for the second day in a row to a total of 64, the online Matangi Tonga news portal and other media reported.

While the number may seem small, the nation of 105,000 had managed to escape thus far without any infections aside from a single case brought in from a missionary returning to Tonga from Africa last October, which was successfully isolated.

But with the deliveries of critically-important international aid following the Jan. 15 eruption of the massive undersea volcano and a resulting tsunami, two dock workers tested positive at the start of last week for COVID-19.

Despite efforts to contain the outbreak, it has been spreading and is now being reported in more areas, Piukala said.

Five tests that had been sent to Australia for analysis confirmed it was the omicron variant of the virus, he said.

Three people were confirmed killed in the eruption and tsunami, and several small settlements in outlying islands were wiped out. A thick layer of volcanic ash also blanketed the main island and tainted much of the drinking water, and may have damaged crops.

The only fiber-optic cable to the island was severed in the eruption, making communications sporadic, at best. With several areas now in complete lockdown, the Education Ministry has started home schooling with teachers giving lessons over FM radio.

Iran unveils new missile with reported region-wide range

AP

In this photo released Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, by Sepahnews of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, surface-to-surface "Khaibar-buster" missile is displayed in an undisclosed location in Iran.

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran unveiled a new missile on Wednesday with a reported range that would allow it to reach both U.S. bases in the region and targets inside its archfoe Israel.

State TV reported that the missile uses solid fuel and has a range of 1,450 kilometers (900 miles). It is called the Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam.

The report said the missile has high accuracy, is manufactured completely domestically, and can defeat missile shield systems. The information has not been independently verified.

Israel's closest point to Iran is some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away. Iran has missiles that can travel up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles).

The report comes as negotiations continue in Vienna to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Iran, which has long said it does not seek nuclear weapons, insists its missile program is only a deterrent.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday spoke with King Salman of Saudi Arabia. The White House said Biden briefed the Saudi leader on the multilateral talks aimed at getting Iran to return to compliance. Former President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal in 2018.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Wednesday a deal is "in sight" but warned that "if it's not reached in the coming weeks Iran's nuclear advances will make it impossible" for the U.S. to return to the deal.

Off The Wall

Indon croc is freed from tire stuck on its neck for 6 years

PALU, Indonesia (AP)—A wild crocodile with a used motorcycle tire stuck around its neck for six years has finally been freed by an Indonesian bird catcher in a tireless effort that wildlife conservation officials hailed as a milestone Wednesday.

The 4.5-meter (14.8-foot) saltwater female crocodile has become an icon to the people in Palu, the capital city of Central Sulawesi. The beast was seen on the city's river with the tire around its neck becoming increasingly tighter, running the risk of choking her.

Conservation officials were racing to rescue the crocodile since residents spotted the reptile in 2016, generating sympathy among residents and worldwide. In 2020, Australian crocodile wrangler Matthew Wright and American wildlife biologist Forrest Galante tried and failed to free the reptile.

A crocodile with a motorcycle tire stuck around its neck basks on a riverbank in Palu, Central Sulawesi on Jan. 18, 2020. AP

In early January, 35-year-old bird catcher and trader Tili, who recently moved to the city, heard about the famous crocodile from his neighbors and determined to rescue the reptile after he saw her frequently sunbathing at a nearby estuary.

"I have experiences and skills in catching animals, not only birds, but farm animals that are released from the cage," Tili, who goes by a single name, told The Associated Press. "I believe I can rescue the crocodile with my skills." He stringed ropes of various sizes into a trap tied to a tree near the river, and laid chickens, ducks and birds as bait. After three weeks of waiting and several failed attempts, the crocodile finally fell into the trap Monday night. With the help of two of his friends, Tili pulled the trapped crocodile ashore and sawed through the tire, which was 50 centimeters (1.6 feet) in diameter.

Colorado deputy rescues pup from burning SUV

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. (AP)—A sheriff's deputy is being praised for smashing the windows of a burning SUV and rescuing a frightened dog in a neighborhood south of Denver.

Douglas County Deputy Michael Gregorek's body camera video from Jan. 22, which was released Thursday, shows him arriving on the scene as smoke pours from the driver's side window of the SUV. The owner frantically yells that his dog Hank is somewhere inside the locked vehicle.

Gregorek uses his retractable baton to smash a side window and then the rear window before pulling Hank out and quickly carrying him to a nearby snowbank.

"I just went in there and grabbed on. And his body had already kind of started to tense up, so I knew he was really in a bad way. ... Nothing else really mattered at that point other than getting Hank out of the car," Gregorek said in an interview released by the sheriff's department.

A neighbor told the deputy his wife was a veterinarian, but by the time she got home, Hank was already sprinting around and ready to play.

"I'm a dog parent. My only child is my dog, so I would have done the same thing, whether it be baby, human, dog, cat. A life is a life, and you kind of treat it as such in a situation like that," Gregorek said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Monkey business: Antwerp zoo put kids at ease for virus jab

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP)—The Belgian city of Antwerp has put its faith in monkey business to put kids at ease for their first COVID-19 jab. With the expansion of the country's vaccination campaign to include children as young as 5, Belgian authorities are getting creative as they try to prevent kids getting spooked by the sight of vials and needles. Antwerp on Wednesday made use of one its greatest assets—the zoo in the center of town which is one of the finest in Europe. While adult vaccination centers focus on the conveyor belt principle to process as many people in as short a time as possible, it takes more patience with kids. Close to the zoo's entrance, specially designed safari tents were set up, with photos of zoo animals. To distract them inside the tent, kids were given light pointers to seek out the animals they liked best while they got their shot. If there was any pain, it quickly dissipated when they and their parents were allowed to stroll through the zoo's greenhouse and visit the monkey enclosure.

Florida man steals car; train sends it crashing into house

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man says he jumped from a stolen car seconds before it was hit by a train and sent flying into a nearby home. The sleeping residents were unharmed and the man was later arrested, authorities said. Police said the man claimed he stole the car in a "good faith effort" to search for his own vehicle after leaving a bar early Saturday in Martin County, around 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of West Palm Beach. Instead, he got stuck on the railroad tracks in the path of an oncoming train. After the crash, the man tried to steal a forklift from a nearby fruit stand, which he also vandalized, the Martin County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. He was arrested after flagging down responding deputies "to let them know he was still looking for his car," the statement said. The homeowners were fine, but "the explosive sound of a driverless car smashing into the side of their home was clearly jolting," the sheriff's office said.

Science & Technology

Cave tells a new story about Neanderthals, early humans

BERLIN (AP)—A hillside dwelling overlooking the picturesque Rhone Valley in southern France proved irresistible for our ancestors, attracting both Neanderthals and modern humans long before the latter were thought to have reached that part of Europe, a new study suggests.

In a paper published Wednesday by the journal Science Advances, researchers from Europe and the United States described finding fossilized homo sapiens remains and tools sandwiched between those of Neanderthals in the Mandrin Grotto, named after an 18th-century French folk hero.

"The findings provide archaeological evidence that these hominin cousins may have coexisted in the same region of Europe during the same time period," the team said.

This undated photo provided by Ludovic Slimak shows scientists working at the entrance of the Mandrin cave, near Montelimar, southern France. AP

Using new techniques, the authors dated some of the human remains to about 54,000 years ago—almost 10,000 years earlier than previous finds in Europe, with one exception in Greece.

"This significantly deepens the known age of the colonization of Europe by modern humans," said Michael Petraglia, an expert on prehistory at Germany's Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

TECH Q&A: Crashing apps may mean an iPad is low on memory

Q: The apps on my iPad keep crashing when I touch or swipe my finger on the screen. What's wrong?

A: There are several possible causes, but the most likely one is that your iPad is running out of storage space.

To find out how much memory is available, go to Settings, click General and select "iPad storage." If you are close to one gigabyte remaining, you'll need to delete some data or apps.

Here's how:

On the same screen that shows how much memory is available, Apple lists the apps and suggests what you can delete to save space. You can also make your own decisions by clicking each app to see how much memory it's using, then choosing whether to delete or "offload" the app. (Offloading deletes an app but keeps its stored data in case you want to reinstall the app in the future. See tinyurl.com/5n6m35hb).

Another way to free up storage space is to copy some of your photos to a non-Apple online storage service, such as Dropbox or Microsoft OneDrive, then delete them from your iPad. Don't rely on Apple's iCloud online service; it will delete whatever the iPad does.

Crashing apps can also be caused by software problems.

Here are some potential fixes:

■ Restart the iPad. If it won't respond because of an app crash, you can "force restart" it (see tinyurl.com/ycb7judk).

■ Make sure you've installed the latest version of the iPad operating system. Go to Settings, click General and click "software update" to see if a newer version is available.

■ Update the apps on your iPad through the Apple App Store. If you have an older version of an app, it may not work well with recent upgrades of the iPad's operating system. After updating the apps, restart your iPad.

■ Try uninstalling and reinstalling apps you use frequently. That will fix problems caused by a flawed installation. Do this first with apps you installed about the time the problem started.

■ Try resetting your iPad. In addition to fixing some software problems, the reset will also erase settings for your Wi-Fi connection, location and privacy (see tinyurl.com/5avy77fh), but you can add them again. Follow these reset instructions carefully: Go to Settings, click General, then click "transfer or reset iPad." In the next menu, click "reset." (Do not click "erase all content and settings" because it will permanently delete all apps and data on the iPad.)

Q: In your column about fixing a disappearing Mac cursor (see tinyurl.com/2p875fpn), you suggested "force quitting" an app to find out if it interferes with the cursor. How can I do that if the cursor isn't visible?

A: Even if you can't see the cursor, you can use your Mac's keyboard to force-quit an app.

Simultaneously hold down the "command," "option" and "Esc" keys on your keyboard. That will bring the force-quit menu to the screen. Use the arrow keys to select an app from the list, then push the key labeled "enter" or "return" to force-quit that app. In the resulting pop-up window, you'll be asked again if you want to force-quit the app. Click the "enter" or "return" key again.

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Family: Bob Saget died after accidental blow to the head

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bob Saget's death last month stemmed from an accidental blow to the head, his family said in a statement Wednesday.

The comedian and "Full House" star was found dead Jan. 9 in a Florida hotel room. He›d performed in the area the night before as part of a stand-up tour.

"The authorities have determined that Bob passed from head trauma," the Saget family said. "They have concluded that he accidentally hit the back of his head on something, thought nothing of it and went to sleep. No drugs or alcohol were involved."

Saget

The medical examiner's office in Orange County, Florida, did not immediately return a message seeking details about their investigation Wednesday night.

Saget, 65, was found on the hotel bed and there were no signs of foul play, authorities said last month. A hotel security officer had entered the room after Saget failed to check out, and called 911 when he found him unresponsive.

Deputies and paramedics came to the room at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando and he was pronounced dead.

Saget was best known for his role as beloved single dad Danny Tanner on the sitcom "Full House" and as the wisecracking host of "America's Funniest Home Videos."

Saget was on the road as part of his "I Don't Do Negative Comedy Tour." After warm audience receptions to his gigs Friday in Orlando and Saturday in the Ponte Vedra Beach resort area, he celebrated online.

"I'm back in comedy like I was when I was 26. I guess I'm finding my new voice and loving every moment of it," he'd posted Saturday on Instagram.

Saget's death prompted an outpouring of affection from fans and colleagues, who recalled him as both funny and extraordinarily kind.

In the statement, the family said it has been overwhelmed with "the incredible outpouring of love from Bob's fans" and were comforted by it.

"As we continue to mourn together, we ask everyone to remember the love and laughter that Bob brought to this world, and the lessons he taught us all: to be kind to everyone, to let the people you love know you love them, and to face difficult times with hugs and laughter," his family said.

Saget was married to Kelly Rizzo Saget and had three daughters from a previous marriage.

Former 'American Idol' star charged in fatal DUI crash

By JEFF MARTIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A country music singer who was a finalist on TV's "American Idol" is accused of barreling into man with his pickup and running over him in what his lawyer called a terrible accident.

Caleb Andrew Kennedy, 17, faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted of driving under the influence resulting in death, South Carolina authorities said Wednesday.

Kennedy drove the truck onto a private driveway in Spartanburg County on Tuesday afternoon, striking a man who lived on the property, according to Master Trooper Mitchell Ridgeway of the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

Larry Duane Parris, 54, was hit as he stood just outside his shop where he fixes boats, authorities said. The impact of the crash drove Parris inside the shop, where he was found by his daughter, Solicitor Barry Barnette said at a Wednesday court hearing.

Kennedy

Kennedy "literally ran over top of him," Barnette said.

In a 911 call, Parris' daughter can be heard screaming for help, and Kennedy can be heard on the tape saying he was sorry as he held the dying man inside the shop, the solicitor said. Parris was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

"He was holding the victim in his arms when the police got there," his lawyer, Ryan Beasley, told The Associated Press. "I can't tell you how sorry he is."

"This was obviously a terrible, terrible accident," Beasley said. Kennedy, a high school junior, "by all indications is a great student, never been in trouble."

Green Day front man's beloved car recovered after theft

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP)—Green Day front man Billie Joe Armstrong won't have to walk that Boulevard of Broken Dreams anymore. His beloved vintage car has been found.

Thieves made off last weekend with Armstrong's pearl white-finish 1962 Chevy II Nova in Costa Mesa, south of Los Angeles. Acting on tips, authorities found it abandoned Tuesday night in El Modena, an unincorporated Orange County area about 10 miles away, police said.

No arrests have been made.

Armstrong was overjoyed at the recovery of the car, which he'd owned for nearly three decades.

AP

This image provided by the Costa Mesa, Calif., Police Department shows a 1962 Chevy II Nova owned by Green Day frontman Billie Joe Armstrong.

"Joy ride? Maybe.. who knows. We live in desperate times," Armstrong wrote in an Instagram post Wednesday. "Thank God it's all in one piece. No damage. Thank you, thank you to everyone that searched for my Chevy."

The car was taken in front of a business between Friday evening and Saturday morning, authorities said.

On Sunday, Armstrong released a YouTube video thanking everyone for sharing his tweet asking for help in finding the car. He also had a message for the thieves.

"To the people that stole it, the one thing is, like, I don't want anyone to go to jail. That sucks, you know," Armstrong said. "Just drop it off. Or, you know, and if you do get caught, I'll bail you out. I just want my car back."

However, two electric guitars and an amplifier that were in the car are still missing. They are a burnt-orange Aria Pro II V, a champagne-color Roland GR-707 guitar/synth controller and a Fender Super Bassman amp head, the Orange County Register reported.

Snoop Dogg takes over Death Row Records brand as owner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Snoop Dogg has taken over a popular record label that launched his stellar career.

The rapper-mogul acquired Death Row Records' brand from MNRK Music Group, which is controlled by a private equity fund managed by Blackstone, the i nvestment firm announced Wednesday. The terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Snoop Dogg said he's excited about acquiring the label's brand.

"I am thrilled and appreciative of the opportunity to acquire the iconic and culturally significant Death Row Records brand, which has immense untapped future value," the 50-year-old Snoop Dogg said in a statement. "It feels good to have ownership of the label I was part of at the beginning of my career and as one of the founding members. This is an extremely meaningful moment for me."

Snoop Dogg found his springboard to success during the 1990s while on Death Row Records. The label was founded in 1992 by Dr. Dre, Suge Knight, the D.O.C. and Dick Griffey in the immediate aftermath of the breakup of N.W.A.

David Kestnbaum, a senior managing director at Blackstone, said he's looking forward to seeing Snoop Dogg at the helm of Death Row.

Art buyer looking for gift after helping to boost sales

DEAR ABBY: A year ago I discovered that I have a talent for creating a unique type of art which is marketable. At a holiday market in which I participated, a customer commissioned me to make two pieces for her. She also advised me on how I should market my art. I listened patiently but had no intention of following her advice.

When she came to my home to pick up the pieces, she brought three of her friends along and began advising me again. This time, she mentioned that when a person brings a group of purchasing customers (as these ladies were ... they bought nearly everything I have), I should ALWAYS offer a little "gift" to the person bringing the customers (i.e. one of my pieces as a token of gratitude).

Abby, I consider what I do to be my business now. I'm not selling cosmetics or kitchenware for another company. I don't think I have ever gone to any market with friends and asked the seller to give me a token for bringing friends who bought something. Is this what I should do? Please enlighten me.

BUDDING ARTIST DOWN SOUTH

DEAR ARTIST: Someone who helps you to increase your business should be thanked for their effort -- as long as it is you and not the other person who is deciding on what is appropriate. Whether this comes in the form of a verbal expression of gratitude or something tangible is up to you.

While on one hand I think it was nervy of the woman to spring this on you, on the other I can't help thinking that business is business -- and this is a way of promoting it. Consider offering the woman a future discount.

***

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I were having dinner at a nice restaurant when a woman came up to him. It turned out she was a former girlfriend of his. When she looked at me questioningly, he introduced me as his "friend"! I REintroduced myself to her as his fiancee. She then looked back at him and said, "Oh. Congratulations," and walked away. For the first time, I'm seriously considering not marrying this guy. What do you think?

MORE THAN A FRIEND IN TEXAS

DEAR MORE: What happened is a red flag. I think your fiance has a lot of explaining to do. Start the discussion with, "I am not your 'friend,' I am your fiancee!" I wouldn't blame you for making this a loooong engagement. It seems you need to get to know him better.

***

DEAR ABBY: After I told my cousin I was gay about 20 years ago, he stopped speaking to me, so I wrote him off. My life has been happy because I have strong relationships and no jealousy. Well, my aunt died recently. I assume this cousin will be at the memorial service. I still resent how everything went all those years ago. Should I ask him if he has anything to say to me? Should I confront him or just leave well enough alone?

STILL PEEVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STILL PEEVED: I see nothing positive to be gained by confronting your cousin at the memorial. Bring a close friend or your partner with you if you need emotional support. You didn't mention whether the rest of the family is as homophobic as this cousin, but at an emotional time like this, my advice is to let sleeping dogs lie.

DEAR ABBY

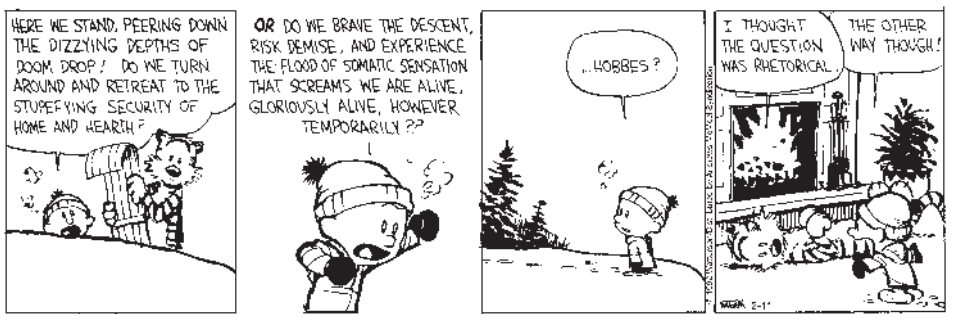
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE WE STAND, PEERING DOWN THE DIZZYING DEPTHS OF DOOM. DROP... DO WE TURN AROUND AND RETREAT TO THE STUPEFYING SECURITY OF HOME AND HEARTH?
OR DO WE BRAVE THE DESCENT, RISK DEMISE, AND EXPERIENCE THE FLOOD OF SOMATIC SENSATION THAT SCREAMS WE ARE ALIVE, GLORIOUSLY ALIVE, HOWEVER TEMPORARILY??
...HOBBES?
I THOUGHT THE QUESTION WAS RHETORICAL.
THE OTHER WAY THOUGH!

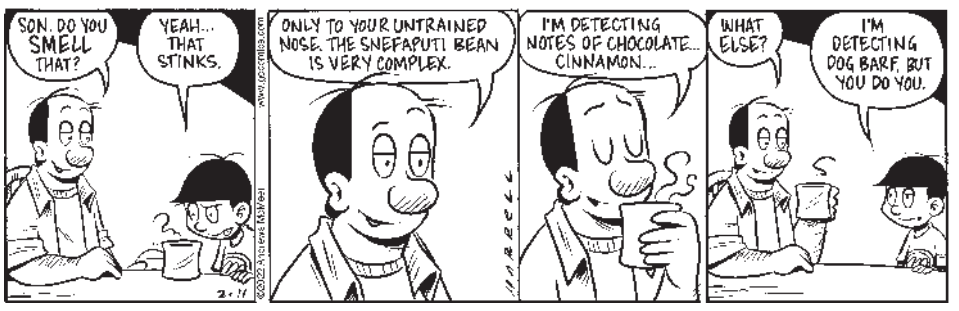
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I USED TO RUN IN HIGH SCHOOL
I TRIED OUT FOR THE TRACK TEAM
OH, HOW I WANTED TO BE A SCREAMING LEGHORN!
HOW DID THEY RUN IN THOSE CHICKEN SUITS?
YEAR BOOK

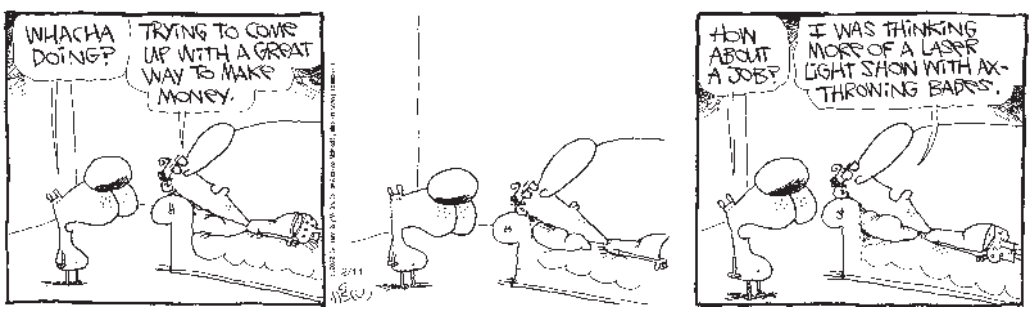
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SON, DO YOU SMELL THAT?
YEAH... THAT STINKS.
ONLY TO YOUR UNTRAINED NOSE. THE SNEFAPUTI BEAN IS VERY COMPLEX.
I'M DETECTING NOTES OF CHOCOLATE... CINNAMON...
WHAT ELSE?
I'M DETECTING DOG BARF, BUT YOU DO YOU.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHACHA DOING?
TRYING TO COME UP WITH A GREAT WAY TO MAKE MONEY.
HOW ABOUT A JOB?
I WAS THINKING MORE OF A LASER LIGHT SHOW WITH AX-THROWING BABES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sir's counterpart
6 Scratch
9 Block letters?
12 January, to Juan
13 Kimono closer
14 Actor Linden
15 Car sticker
16 Fashion variable
18 Andean animals
20 "The Haj" author
21 Shapiro of NPR
23 Like sashimi
24 Quilt square
25 Harangue
27 Yarn unit
29 Low-quality
31 Arizona resort
35 French legislature
37 Miles away
38 Monster
41 Moment
43 Service charge
44 Perimeter
45 Urban —
47 Comedic culmination
49 Crocheted mat
52 Texter's "Enough!"
53 Director Howard
54 Bert's roomie
55 Sugary suffix
56 Tummy muscles
57 Adolescents

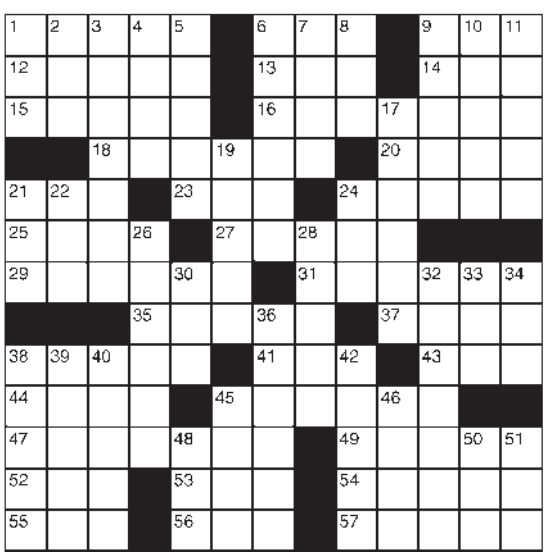
DOWN

1 Club —
2 Hydrocarbon suffix
3 Turn down
4 Asia's — Sea
5 Grinding tooth
6 Hudson River feeder
7 Fortas and Lincoln
8 Brink
9 Polo, e.g.
10 Freak out
11 Skin
17 Angola's capital
19 Brick worker
21 Curved line
22 Fan's cry
24 Diner dessert
26 Mortarboard dangler
28 Perfume compound
30 Favorite
32 Disconnected
33 Scot's denial
34 Verb for you
36 Trembling trees
38 "I — differ!"
39 Dutch exports
40 Texas A&M student
42 West Pointer
45 Elitist
46 Donned
48 Roth svgs. plan
50 Architect Maya
51 "You bet!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	C	O	P		M	A	P		C	M	O	N
M	A	M	A		O	N	E		I	O	R	I
W	I	F	T		R	A	G		F	R	A	T
S	U	N	I	A	T		S	T	A	P	I	F
			O	B	I			A	T	M		
H	A	M	S		C	A	M	P	S	I	T	E
I	W	O			I	P	O			N	A	G
T	E	R	I	G	A	R	R		A	E	R	O
		A	M	F			N	A	M			
G	A	L	P	A	L			D	E	A	L	S
O	H	I	O		P	A	N		N	C	A	A
B	O	T	S		G	I	G		D	L	V	I
S	T	Y	E		A	R	S		S	U	E	D

Yesterday's answer 2-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Lautner, 30; Kelly Rowland, 41; Jennifer Aniston, 53; Sheryl Crow, 60.

Happy Birthday: Be realistic and honest regarding what you can achieve. Set guidelines that will help you maintain your integrity and honor your promises. How you deal with others will determine your success. You can be kind and considerate without letting others coerce you into doing something questionable. Be good to yourself. Focus on being your best, and live in the moment. Your numbers are 3, 11, 21, 26, 32, 37, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Talk to someone who always has your back. The discussion will deter you from making a mistake. You may be restless for a change of pace, but it must be the right move to be beneficial. Take your time. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Leave nothing unfinished. Go over every detail yourself. Once you are satisfied, feel free to kick back and celebrate. A positive reaction from someone you love will boost your confidence and open the door to new possibilities. Share your long-term intentions. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Plan your day carefully. Be sure to have paperwork updated to avoid problems with institutions or authority figures. Stick to facts and figures, and leave no room for error. Abide by the rules, and you'll get what you want. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be realistic about what you have to offer or the direction you want to head. Consider what's required of you to reach your goal. Put together a solid plan, and adjust to ensure that you can finish what you start. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep an open mind, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone is likely to exaggerate or lead you to believe something that will encourage you to make a snap decision. Keep your emotions in check. Protect your assets, investments and possessions. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make unique plans with someone you love. A social event will allow you to share your ideas and thoughts with someone who can offer suggestions that will motivate you to move forward. Let your intentions be known. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't let anger prevail. Stand back and look at the big picture before you make a move, comment or head into a discussion. Know what you are up against, and be prepared to handle matters responsibly. Something worthwhile will transpire. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Invest more time and money into your home or living arrangements. Think outside the box, and you'll come up with a responsible plan that will help you save money. A friend or relative will shed light on a perplexing situation. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotions will surface over trivial matters that you neglected to address. Don't leave anything to chance or think that ignoring something will make it go away. Face the facts and take responsibility quickly. You'll bypass ending up in a compromising position. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be creative, and take care of your responsibilities efficiently and with finesse. The options you choose will lead to positive changes at home and how you present yourself to others. Love and romance are on the rise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Spend time with people who encourage you to follow your heart and dreams. Be true to yourself instead of letting someone dictate what's possible. Uncertainty caused by someone's input will hold you back. Take control, and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be honest, and keep the peace. Use reason, incentives if you wish to reach common ground with friends, relatives or peers. Embrace positive suggestions and change. If you hide something from someone you love, you'll face the consequences. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unique and caring. You are generous and indulgent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5				2
			5		3	
9		1		2		
	3		8		1	7
	4	9	9		2	8
				9	7	4
			7		4	
2					3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	8	1	4	7	9	6	5	2
6	5	4	2	1	8	7	9	3
9	2	7	3	6	5	8	1	4
4	3	8	1	9	7	5	2	6
1	7	5	6	4	2	3	8	9
2	9	6	8	5	3	4	7	1
5	4	2	9	8	6	1	3	7
8	1	9	7	3	4	2	6	5
7	6	3	5	2	1	9	4	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE NUMBER SIGN Solution: 9 letters

M	P	T	W	I	T	T	E	R	M	O	N	E	Y	O
W	R	I	T	E	X	D	L	A	N	R	U	O	J	C
X	I	A	X	I	O	E	C	T	T	L	A	S	P	E
A	N	T	L	C	M	H	H	T	A	M	Q	P	R	G
T	T	O	I	A	A	E	L	V	A	U	A	O	O	A
N	P	N	L	N	I	I	T	R	A	G	L	T	O	U
Y	U	E	N	E	N	D	G	R	E	I	I	P	F	G
S	H	E	R	K	C	O	E	B	A	O	N	A	R	N
H	L	R	R	L	R	X	U	M	O	A	E	L	E	A
S	H	A	R	P	A	T	E	P	L	O	T	A	A	L
A	M	S	G	T	T	B	T	G	H	A	K	M	D	O
L	D	R	A	O	B	Y	E	K	B	O	I	I	N	B
S	I	X	N	H	P	B	L	L	A	C	N	C	U	M
D	E	E	P	E	R	V	E	C	T	O	R	E	O	Y
S	S	S	G	A	T	T	H	E	O	R	Y	D	P	S

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Alarm, Algebra, ALT, Book, Button, Call, Channels, Decimal, Email, Excel, Grid, Hash, Hex, Journal, Keyboard, Label, Language, Laptop, Line, Link, Mark, Math, Money, Page, Perl, Phone, Pound, Print, Program, Proofread, Sharp, Slash, Social Media, Square, Symbol, Syntax, Tablet, Tags, Taxes, Text, Theory, Time, Tones, Twitter, Type, Unicode, Value, Vector, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Coupons

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Simons has 29 and Blazers rally for win over Lakers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Anfernee Simons scored 29 points and the Portland Trail Blazers snapped a six-game losing streak with a 107-105 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

Jusuf Nurkic added 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who kept it close through the first three quarters before rallying in the fourth — despite a roster depleted by a flurry of recent trades.

LeBron James had 30 points for the Lakers, who didn't have Russell Westbrook because of lower back tightness. It was the first game the former league MVP had missed this season.

Dennis Smith's behind-the-back pass to Trendon Watford for the basket put the Blazers up 89-82 with 8:41 left. Los Angeles rebounded and briefly pulled in front 96-95 on James' layup. But Simons' 3-pointer gave the Blazers a 102-98 lead with 2:41 left.

After James' dunk, Simons made another 3 that put Portland up 105-100. James' layup got the Lakers within three points with 27.8 second on the clock but Simons made a pair free throws — and James' 3-pointer at the buzzer wasn't enough.

Each team was playing the second of a back-to-back. The Blazers fell 113-95 to the Orlando Magic on Tuesday while the Lakers were defeated at home by Milwaukee 131-116.

AP

Portland Trail Blazers forward Trendon Watford, left, passes the ball as Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022.

Bulls 121, Hornets 109

In Charlotte, N.C., DeMar DeRozan scored 36 points, Nikola Vucevic added 18 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, and the Chicago Bulls handed the Charlotte Hornets their sixth consecutive loss, 121-109 on Wednesday night.

Zach LaVine chipped in with 27 points for the Bulls (34-21), who pulled within one game of the Eastern Conference-leading Miami Heat.

LaMelo Ball had 33 points and nine rebounds for Charlotte, which continued to struggle with its 3-point shooting and made just 13 of 43. During their six-game losing streak, the Hornets are shooting 27.9% (66 of 236) from beyond the arc.

Charlotte (28-28) has lost its last six games by an average of 11.8 points and wrapped up a homestand with an 0-4 record to fall to ninth place in the conference.

Jazz 111, Warriors 85

In Salt Lake City, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 23 points and Donovan Mitchell had 14 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists as Utah snapped Golden State's nine-game winning streak.

Hassan Whiteside added nine points, 17 rebounds and seven blocks for the Jazz, who nearly held the Warriors to their lowest shooting percentage this season until a garbage-time hot streak helped them finish at 36%.

Mitchell fell just short of Utah's first triple-double since Carlos Boozer did it 14 years ago.

The Jazz are still without Rudy Gobert, who has missed eight games with a calf strain. But they dominated the paint on both ends of the court.

Jordan Poole led Golden State with 18 points and Stephen Curry had 16 in the Warriors' most lopsided loss this season.

Golden State was also shorthanded. Klay Thompson, Andre Iguodala and James Wiseman were sidelined with injuries.

Kings 132, Timberwolves 119

In Sacramento, Calif., Harrison Barnes scored 30 points, Domantas Sabonis had 22 points and 14 rebounds in his Kings debut and Sacramento pulled away late to beat Minnesota.

De'Aaron Fox added 27 points and eight rebounds to help the Kings win in their first game since making a six-player trade with Indiana.

Sabonis, part of the deal that sent Tyrese Haliburton to the Pacers, celebrated his first game with his new team with a double-double that helped end the Timberwolves' five-game winning streak.

D'Angelo Russell had 29 points and 10 assists for the Timberwolves. Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. Anthony Edwards scored 26.

Cavaliers 105, Spurs 92

In Cleveland, Darius Garland scored 27 points in his return from a back injury and Caris LeVert added 11 in his debut for Cleveland, leading the Cavaliers over San Antonio in their last home game before hosting the All-Star Game.

Garland, who missed the past four games with a sore lower back, showed why he was selected as an All-Star for the first time. He made 12 of 15 shots, added six assists, five rebounds and got Cleveland's offense back on track.

Keldon Johnson and Devin Vassell scored 18 apiece and All-Star Dejounte Murray had 16 for the Spurs, who opened an eight-game road trip.

Raptors 117, Thunder 98

In Oklahoma City, Pascal Siakam had 27 points and 16 rebounds, Fred VanVleet made six 3-pointers and added 21 points, and Toronto beat Oklahoma City for its seventh straight victory.

Siakam started quickly en route to a 13-for-17 shooting performance. He had 15 points on 7-of-8 shooting in the first nine minutes of play.

The spark led the Raptors to outscore the Thunder 34-22 in the opening quarter, shooting 68.4% from the field while the Thunder shot just 31.8%.

Aleksej Pokuševski and Theo Maledon scored 18 points apiece for the Thunder. Lu Dort had 15, while Darius Bazley, Josh Giddey and Ty Jerome all had 13.

With NBA trade deadline looming, Nets, Lakers weigh options

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Durant still can't play, Kyrie Irving still can only play part of the time and the Brooklyn Nets have tumbled down the standings.

With the NBA trade deadline looming, James Harden has dominated headlines.

LeBron James and Anthony Davis have battled injuries and the Los Angeles Lakers have been inconsistent all season.

In L.A., it's Russell Westbrook in the news.

Now the expected NBA Finals contenders who instead may be play-in round bound, face a decision before Thursday's deadline: Stand pat with the belief that all they need to save them is the rosters they already have, or make a move?

"I've always felt like, listen, I don't really like to play fantasy basketball. So this is the group that we have going into the deadline, then we'll be ready to take on all challenges that this season has given us," James said. "If there is an opportunity — I've said this every year — if there is an opportunity for you to get better, then you explore those options."

One of those opportunities ends Thursday afternoon.

Some teams have already taken advantage, with the Cleveland Cavaliers, Los Angeles Clippers and New Orleans Pelicans making trades that could help them make playoff pushes.

Of those teams, only the surprising Cavaliers are in what would normally be a good playoff position at this point in the season. But with coronavirus pauses unsettling some teams earlier in the season and the play-in keeping hopes alive for later, teams that may otherwise have considered themselves out of contention may still believe they're in the running.

That seemed to be the case in New Orleans, where the Pelicans acquired CJ McCollum from Portland on Tuesday to strengthen a team that would have entered the day five games out of the eighth and final Western Conference playoff spot in the old format, but instead occupied 10th and was trending upward.

The Trail Blazers had already dealt Norman Powell and Robert Covington to the Clippers, who hold that eighth spot but would be dangerous no matter where they are if Paul George and Kawhi Leonard can return from injuries later this season.

Even the Sacramento Kings, who fired coach Luke Walton and were 15 games under .500, were still only a couple games out of a play-in spot when they agreed to a deal with Indiana to have two-time All-Star Domantas Sabonis packing his bags for California.

The teams in seventh through 10th place in each conference qualify for the play-in, giving themselves an opportunity to win their way into the postseason.

The Nets were never expected to be there.

Yet they have fallen to eighth in the East after falling 126-91 to Boston on Tuesday for their ninth straight loss.

They are 2-10 since Durant sprained his left knee, an injury that could keep him out until after the All-Star break. With Irving ineligible to play in home games because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 as mandated by New York City, it's placed a heavy burden on Harden. He has missed the last three games with left hamstring tightness and seemed frustrated beforehand.

Harden can become a free agent after the season and there have been reports the Nets, instead of risking losing him for nothing, could trade him to Philadelphia in a package for Ben Simmons, who has sat out all season. But coach Steve Nash said Sunday that the Nets wouldn't trade the All-Star guard.

Nash said Tuesday he didn't expect a different version of the Nets after Thursday.

"Honestly, I think we'll be exactly the same," he said. "I think the chances of trades or deals happening before the deadline are so slim, especially for our group. So my mind and attention is on this group and putting this thing together as guys become healthy again and trying to build it for the stretch run."

The Nets may believe that Durant, Harden and Irving are good enough to lead them to a title no matter where they are seeded, and that may be true. But they have played so few games together in more than a year since Harden was acquired that simply relying on their superstars' availability is a risk.

Same with the Lakers, who won a title in 2020. But with James missing 17 games and Davis 21 this season, they are under .500 through 55 games. Westbrook has been benched at the end of some games, but it's hard for the Lakers to know if their roster makeup is their problem when they've had so few chances to see it.

Even if those big names aren't dealt, there could still be reliable players available.

Toronto acquired Goran Dragic when it lost Kyle Lowry to Miami but the veteran point guard hasn't been playing for the Raptors. Indiana's trade of Caris LeVert to Cleveland followed by the deal with the Kings could prove a willingness by the Pacers to keep dealing.

The Cavs were thrilled to add LeVert, who the Pacers had acquired last January in the multiteam trade that landed Harden in Brooklyn. The Nets haven't turned into the powerhouse that was expected, leaving the East race wide open without a clear-cut favorite.

That could leave plenty of teams thinking like the Cavs, who recognized the time to make a run could be now.

"I'm sure when the season started guys never thought about this or having a championship mentality or mindset," said Rajon Rondo, a two-time NBA champion. "But now it's time to flip the switch and understand we want some respect and that we will have to go get it in the playoffs, but nevertheless we can compete with anyone."

Burrow's scrambling helps Bengals reach Super Bowl

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Nearly every time the Kansas City Chiefs got pressure on Joe Burrow in the AFC championship game, he managed to pull off a surprising escape.

That ability to get out of trouble with his legs is one of Burrow's best traits and a big reason why he has the Cincinnati Bengals playing in the Super Bowl.

"That adds a whole other dimension to our offense," offensive coordinator Brian Callahan said. "His ability to extend plays, go off-script, do anything that involves moving the pocket and moving the landmarks for the receivers and let those guys go create has generated a number of explosive plays and first downs over the course of the year. He's got a great natural feel for moving in the pocket. It's a huge part of playing quarterback in the NFL these days. Guys have to be able to do that. He does it as good as anybody else."

Burrow was at his best in that during the AFC championship game win at Kansas City when he turned three sure sacks into third-down conversions with his legs, becoming the first player since Colin Kaepernick nine years ago to run for three first downs in a playoff game when a team needed at least 5 yards for a first down.

Burrow also converted on a third-and-1 run, becoming the fourth player at any position to convert at least four first downs with his legs in a playoff game in the past 10 seasons.

"He's found a lot of different ways for us to win these games, and that's part of the development of playing, is knowing how to play quarterback and doing whatever the game requires," Callahan said. "He knew against Kansas City that he was going to have to run the ball a few times if they're going to double guys and play some coverage structures where there were no eyes on the quarterback. He knew going into the game that would be a big part of it and it was."

Burrow's pocket movement is a big part of Cincinnati's offense with his ability to extend plays helping receivers such as Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd get open downfield for explosive gains.

Burrow was tied for fifth in the NFL in the regular season with six TD passes thrown on the run, according to NFL NextGen stats and led the league with 10.7 yards per attempt when extending plays.

He's increased the frequency of scrambling and running as the season has gone on as he becomes more confident in his left knee that underwent reconstructive surgery during his rookie season in 2020.

"It's night and day from the first half of the season," Burrow said. "I wasn't really able to do any of that the first half. I've really started to come into my own in that in that sense, making plays, extending plays. That's something I've always been able to do, and I'm starting to finally feel like myself and able to pull out of some of those tackles when defensive players have me wrapped up in the pocket and I'm starting to be able to get out of those situations and make some plays."

Returning to the Los Angeles area for the biggest game of his young career seems appropriate for Burrow, who had his knee surgery done in Los Angeles in December 2020 by Rams team physician Neal ElAttrache.

Burrow spent plenty of time rehabbing in the area that he even watched the draft in April at the home of Andrew Whitworth, the former Bengals and current Rams left tackle.

All those hours spent working with Bengals rehabilitation director Nick Cosgray have paid off and now Burrow will have a much rewarding return trip to Southern California.

"It was a long and grueling process," he said. "Nick really helped me get back to the player that I was before. I wouldn't be having the season that I had without him and all the hard work that he put in."

Coach Zac Taylor has seen the gradual progress since training camp when Burrow needed extra time off to deal with lingering soreness and the AFC title game when his Houdini-like evasion skills proved so important.

"I think it got more comfortable closer to the bye and we started to say, 'OK, he looks like he's back 100%,'" Taylor said. "It's hard to ever guess how far along he is, but we could see his confidence growing and his movement skills and certainly this back half of the season he looks like the guy that played for us last year pre-injury."

Miller back on big stage 6 years after MVP aperformance

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Zac Taylor texted Sean McVay after the Los Angeles Rams acquired Von Miller from the Denver Broncos in a midseason trade.

Not to congratulate him.

To thank him.

The Bengals had a trip to Denver coming up in December and Cincinnati's head coach was grateful he wouldn't have to worry about the Broncos' career sacks leader blowing up his game plan.

"Little did I know," Taylor said with a chuckle this week as he calculated ways to keep Miller from tormenting Joe Burrow the way he did Cam Newton in Super Bowl 50 six years ago.

Taylor said Miller commands special attention even at age 32 and on a team featuring Aaron Donald and Jalen Ramsey.

"There's no question," Taylor said. "Von Miller is Von Miller."

The same superstar who celebrated one of the greatest defensive performances in Super Bowl history with a record six-year, $114 million contract extension and what Peyton Manning labeled Miller's "world celebrity tour," a five-month jet-setting junket of television and dance studios, A-list parties and B-roll appearances.

A return trip to the playoffs eluded Miller until six years later, following his Nov. 1 trade to the Rams, who cheered his addition by tweeting, " We're all in," alongside a meme of actor John Malkovich splashing the pot at the poker table.

It was a bittersweet hand dealt Miller, who still says "we" sometimes when talking about the Broncos.

"When you win one, it creates this addiction, like you want it all the time," Miller said. "And the last five years we haven't even been close. So, to come to the Los Angeles Rams has been a true blessing."

Broncos general manager George Paton acquired two second-day draft picks for Miller, who was in the final year of his contract. Paton also agreed to pay $9 million of the remaining $10.5 million of Miller's 2021 salary, essentially buying the Rams' second- and third-round selections in 2022.

"George Paton could have sent me to any team in the NFL and I'm sure he could have gotten more," Miller suggested. "They paid the majority of my salary so I can come to the L.A. Rams. They sent me to a contender for a Super Bowl. And I will tell him, 'Thank you, man,' because I always felt it was more than just a football relationship with him."

Miller described his decade-plus stay in Denver and half a season in L.A. as "kind of like having two kids. They're totally different, but you love them both."

After a slow start with the Rams, exacerbated by a sprained ankle, Miller has had seven sacks in his past seven games, including a strip sack and fumble recovery of Tom Brady in the Rams' 30-27 playoff win over the Buccaneers.

Taylor first experienced the magnitude of Miller's game back in 2010 when he was a graduate assistant at Texas A&M, working for his father-in-law, former Packers head coach Mike Sherman. Miller led the Aggies to a 9-4 record and would soon become John Elway's first draft pick and the second selection overall behind Newton in the 2011 NFL draft.

"He's part of one of the most special seasons I was ever a part of," Taylor said. "Von took over games that season and helped us beat the likes of Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas. So, I've always been very fond of Von. I'm very aware of his capabilities and how he can take over a game. I've seen it too many times to let that one slip by us."

The NBC Sports broadcast crew featuring Al Michaels and Cris Collinsworth that will work the Super Bowl pointed to the Rams' win at Tampa on Jan. 23 as proof Miller is still a prime-time player.

"The basic question was, 'Can he still disrupt the game and do what he did in that first Super Bowl?' And I'll use one of Al's favorite answers that I give him back all the time is, 'Hell yeah!'" Collinsworth said. "... So it's a pick-your-poison kind of situation for the Cincinnati Bengals."

Sort of how it was when DeMarcus Ware lined up opposite Miller in Denver.

Back then, Ware was the savvy veteran who came over from Dallas and Miller the one asking all the questions.

Now, Miller's the one serving as mentor on a team trying to win it all.

"Everything I'm doing here is really from DeMarcus in 2015," Miller said. "I'm really the DeMarcus on this team."

'What I've been trying to portray to the guys is we've got 60 minutes and then it's football heaven," Miller said.

And yet, you get the sense it's not exactly paradise for Miller being away from his infant son and all of his friends and fans in Denver.

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Chen's near-perfect skate wins long-sought Olympic gold

BEIJING (AP)—Nathan Chen remembers making the long drive with his mother from his home in Utah to Rafael Arutyunyan's training base in Southern California. He had started out in figure skating just a few years earlier, using his sister's skates and sleeping in the car to follow his Olympic dreams.

Ten years later, Chen sat alongside Arutyunyan as his scores were read and that dream realized.

With a nearly perfect free skate on the heels of a record-setting short program, the 22-year-old Yale student walked away with the gold medal at the Beijing Games on Thursday. He became the first American figure skating champion since Evan Lysacek in 2010 and capped one of the most dominant four-year runs in the history of the sport.

"My mom and I grew up quite poor. We really didn't have much money," Chen said. "She would just scrap together some dollars to try to pay Raf, and Raf obviously knew about the situation and thanks to the kindness of his heart, was able to just continue taking me in, and taking as much money as we could provide him."

Arutyunyan would try to give the money back sometimes, Chen said, "but I would always try to stick it in his pocket."

On Thursday, Chen was able to give his old coach something priceless.

"I'm happy. Just emotional," Arutyunyan said. "He made it."

Inside historic Capital Indoor Stadium in China, the nation both his parents immigrated from, Chen landed all five of his quads during his "Rocketman" program set to the soaring film score by Elton John. The statistics and data science major finished with an insurmountable total of 332.60 points, just three off his own world record and 22 points ahead of his closest competition. Yuma Kagiyama and Shoma Uno of Japan took silver and bronze.

AP

Nathan Chen, left, of the United States, celebrates with his coach Rafael Arutyunyan after winning the gold medal in the men's free skate program during the figure skating event at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, in Beijing.

Chen also firmly put in the past any lingering memories of his brutal disappointment four years ago in Pyeongchang, when not even a monumental free skate could rescue his medal hopes after a disastrous short program.

"It means the world," he said. "I'm just so happy."

This gold medal might not be the last Chen takes home, either.

The Americans, who earned silver behind the Russians in the team event Monday, were awaiting confirmation from the IOC and International Skating Union that "legal issues" holding up the medal ceremony were related to reports of doping linked to their biggest star, Kamila Valieva. That could ultimately elevate the U.S. to the gold medal, a second for Chen.

"I mean, I don't really feel like I'm the most qualified person to talk about it," Chen said. "Whatever ends up being the case will be the case, but I'm still wrapped up in what I was able to do today."

The Salt Lake City native did his part for the American team with a winning short program last Friday. Vincent Zhou, who was forced to withdraw from the individual event due to a positive COVID-19 test, would also earn a gold medal for the U.S. because he performed his free skate on Sunday.

The suave, down-to-earth Chen and his Japanese rivals separated themselves from the field during their short programs, when Chen shattered the world record with a flawless performance to "La Boheme." When they took to the ice for the free skate, Kagiyama and Uno made just enough mistakes to clear the way for Chen's coronation.

Performing to "Bolero," one of the most popular musical selections of the Beijing Games, Uno under-rotated a quad salchow and quad toe loop, then was dinged for his combination spin late in the program to finish with 293 points.

COLDEEN

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was expecting to be a spectator specially for baseball, but now I have be there for all the sports," he said.

The 70-year-old former Peace Corp. volunteer, Rota High School teacher, and Public School System federal programs coordinator said now that he's been appointed chef de mission he'll call on his vast experience as part of the 1990 and 2006 Micronesian Games Organizing Committee to show the best of what the CNMI has to offer.

"One of the best things Saipan does is host events because of the people here and the nature of this place. I've seen other places host events—not only sports—and Saipan is right up there."

NMSA and MGOC didn't have to do much convincing to get Coldeen onboard, but he said he did had to talk to his wife because COVID-19 is a real concern for his family.

"I'm looking forward to make the Mini Games fun not only for our visitors but also for Team NMI. Thank you for making me part of it and I'm very happy to come out of retirement."

Babauta said as chef de mission Coldeen will not only be in charge of the CNMI delegation, which includes all the national teams (athletes, coaches, and managers).

"As you know, we're the hosts so he'll also be assisting us, the games organizing committee, to get with his chef de mission counterparts from the different Pacific Games Associations that will be here to assist and facilitate the information and anything that they might need," he said.

Tan thanked Coldeen for accepting the chef de mission post that he describes as "the most important sports event in our history."

"We want to thank Mr. Sport as far as we're concerned for coming out of retirement and stepping up to take charge of this hugely important responsibility. We've done the Micronesian Games in 1990 and 2006 and like Ben said this is exciting and probably the most important position in our CNMI delegation. In behalf of NMSA, thank you so much."

Peter also extended his gratitude to Coldeen on behalf of the MGOC and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"We appreciate you accepting the position and sorry you can't retire just yet and we're already looking forward for a very successful Mini Games this year."

Tebuteb extended his personal thank you to Coldeen for taking the chef de mission job.

"Bob knows the language [of the region]… he knows how to speak Marshallese, Chukese, and the rest of the Pacific languages…but the real language he knows is sports. I'm so happy to be part of this with Bob," said Tebuteb, who revealed that close friends of Coldeen call him the Mr. Howard Cosell of the Marianas.

Tebuteb, according to newly appointed chef de mission, was a teammate of his in those championship teams that used to play at the old ballfield at Mt. Carmel School.

"We played next to each other in the outfield. I batted first, he batted second, Jess Wabol batted third, and Tony Satur batted fourth. And we won championships," said Coldeen who was presented with a Mini Games T-shirt during the press conference.

Coldeen said he hopes the T-shirt's size was XL because he's gained 10 lbs since retirement. Now as chef de mission, Coldeen is looking to cook a winning recipe for the CNMI's successful staging of the XI Pacific Mini Games.

NMBA

From Page 28

the open, classification (A, B, and C) and age group.

Quidato, the youngest player on the group at 16 years old, will participate in both age group and classification events and is looking forward to the experience, as he competes in Guam for the first time.

"I'm very excited to compete in Guam. I am looking forward to playing against new people who have very different and unique playing styles. I really want to face these new strong players to help myself improve and to better my playing style," the Marianas High School student said.

"I see this competition as an opportunity to learn from other players. By playing against them, I will be able to see where I am now, as far as my level of play is concerned," Quidato.

Guerrero seconded Quidato and said the whole team is just fortunate to finally have a chance to compete off-island. He added that the timing is perfect, as the national team was just selected in January after months of tryouts and preparations and they would need every opportunity to play in actual competitions before the tough ride in the Pacific Mini Games.

"We need to test ourselves against any competition just so we can see where we are at right now and for other players to experience what it's like to play in a tournament against players they haven't seen before," said Guerrero, who was with the national team that participated in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa and was joined by Galvez, the Pangilinans, and the Macario brothers.

The 2022 Guam Badminton Invitational Tournament will be held at the newly opened Guam Badminton Sports Center in Tamuning with games set to start tomorrow. In the competition, the NMI bets may also challenge players that Guam could send to Saipan for this year's Pacific Mini Games.

"We would like to thank the Guam National Badminton Federation for extending the invitation to our players to compete in the tournament this weekend. The GNBF and the Northern Marianas Badminton Association have developed a partnership that works toward providing opportunities for our players and officials' development and growing the sport in our region," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said. ***(PR)***

NMIBF

From Page 28

basketball court in Kagman 3.

The NMIBF kicked off "Bola," which is supported by FIBA Oceania and FIBA Foundation, at the Koblerville Basketball Court last Jan. 22 and then moved to Garapan Basketball Court last Jan. 29 and at the Civic Center Court last Saturday, offering the federation's version of FIBA's Basketball For Good program to more than 30 participants. After the KCC session, 'Bola" will be at the Chinatown Basketball Court on Feb. 19, San Vicente Basketball Court on Feb. 26, and at the As Matuis Basketball Court on March 5.

"We've been receiving a good response for "Bola" despite the current COVID-19 situations we're in. Thanks to the parents, who entrusted their children to us, our volunteers, and our sponsors from both the private and public sectors. Of course, thank you to these young and enthusiastic kids—some of them have attended the first three sessions—for their diligence and interest in the program. This is truly a team effort, as everyone is working hard to help provide a good program for each village and its residents," NMIBF president James Lee.

Welcome program

Ana Liza Viola, who registered his sons Charles, Carl, Clyde, and Christian to the program, welcomed "Bola," saying it's great to see her children play ball together, share the same passion with the sport, and strengthen their bond as siblings. She also wants her children to meet other people and learn from them and the activities they do together, instead of spending a lot of time in gadgets.

"Nowadays and with the COVID-19 cases in the community, one of our concerns, as parents, is how to keep our children busy because they can't just sit on the couch and play videogames. Whether they are at home or outside, they have to do something that can help them build their immune system, stay active. So, when I heard of this program, I knew I have to bring them here and I am happy that they are enjoying the drills," Ana Liza said.

Christian, the youngest among the four siblings at 6 years old, said he loves being able to shoot the ball and doing dribbling drills with his brothers. Besides the actual rims at the village courts, the NMIBA provides portable ones that are suitable for young children.

Seven-year-old Rayden Cruz said he likes doing stretches because they are easier and fun to do, while Dreanalyn Yamada found the obstacle course drills enjoyable.

"It's nice to hear that the kids are loving the drills. We want them to learn the basic skills in basketball and at the same time have fun. Our drills also help improve their agility and coordination and we do these drills in a safe manner through the fun obstacle courses," lead program coordinator Irish Pagarao said.

"Bola" is held in partnership with the Office of the Governor, the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Office of Youth Affairs, the Division of Youth Services, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and DCCA's Sports and Recreation. ***(PR)***

Netter Cleofe Santos bids Saipan adieu

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Longtime Saipan tennis player Cleofe Santos has left the island yesterday after making Saipan her home the past 33 years.

Santos, who worked for the garment industry when she first arrived on Saipan in 1989, said she's moving to Indiana to work at a packaging company.

"I'm finally leaving Saipan to look for greener pastures," said the Cebu, Philippines native.

Asked what she'll miss most about Saipan, Santos said she will definitely pine for the simple island lifestyle with no semblance of crime or pollution.

On the tennis court, the 62-year-old said her most unforgettable game was in 2004 when she teamed up with Peter Loyola in the mixed doubles open of the 2nd Annual Taga Tennis Tournament against Kayo Ishi and Daniel Son.

While they ultimately lost in the finals, 0-6, 7-5, 6-4, the titanic struggle between the two determined teams still resonates with Santos.

In all, Santos won 67 singles and doubles titles in her over 30-year tennis career on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cleofe Santos, third from right, packed her bags yesterday and flew to Indiana where her new adventure awaits.

Last Tuesday, Santos and her closest tennis buddies gathered for a farewell dinner of sorts at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Of course, the impromptu picnic occurred after a few games of tennis.

Santos plans to return next year for vacation and even hinted of staying for good.

"I'll be back if I'm not able to play my favorite sport of tennis there," she said in Filipino.

While in the mainland U.S., Santos also vowed to go on a road trip.

"I wanna do that. At this age, my priority is no longer just to work but also to have fun and going on road trip fulfills that."

Register to play in NMC's 2022 Golf Open

Northern Marianas College is inviting all golf- in its 17th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open. The tournament will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022, on the East Course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The tournament fee for this year's golf open is $120. Payments can be made at the NMC Cashier at the college's As Terlaje campus or at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. A registration form along with information about the tournament can be found at www.marianas.edu/golf2022

Funds raised from the tournament will be used to help fund the college's critical expenses. These expenses include the rebuilding and expansion of NMC's facilities as well as programmatic and other expenses that advance the College's mission of providing affordable, high quality education to residents of the CNMI.

There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies (Low-Gross and Low-Net). There will be a number of great prizes and awards to players and sponsors. Slots for the tournament fill up fast, so interested players are encouraged to register early.

The college is asking companies, organizations and individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please call 237-6780. ***(PR)***

NMC

Northern Marianas College's 17th Annual Foundation Golf Open will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at the east course of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Golfers interested in participating can download the registration form from www.marianas.edu/golf2022.

Triton Men dominate at 'Love and Basketball' Tournament

After starting their season with a tournament loss and a shortage of players, the University of Guam Triton Men's Basketball Team made a major comeback on Sunday. The Tritons showed up with a full squad of 14 players and produced two victories at the "Love and Basketball" Tournament held at the Vicente S.A. Benavente Middle School Gym.

In their opening game, UOG took on Team Acdavate and won 64-45. The Tritons took control of the game in the first half and survived an early run by Team Acdavate — securing their first easy win of the season. Diane' "D" Blackmon led the Tritons with 17 points while Ike Solomon added 14 points.

Their second game of the tournament was a hard-fought battle against Team F.O.E. The Tritons were eager to play them again after Team F.O.E. knocked the Tritons out of the "Take It 2 the South" tournament in January.

Team F.O.E. gained a quick 8-0 to open the game, but the Tritons came back to even up the score. It was a back-and-forth game until the last few minutes when the Tritons managed to secure an eight-point lead.

However, Team F.O.E. didn't surrender and came back to cut the lead to three points. The Tritons had a hard time keeping possession of the ball, but they were able to run the clock out for the win. Matt Santos led the Tritons with 15 points while the team's two 6'4" players, Darryl Robles and Diane' "D" Blackmon, contributed a total of 21 points.

UOG advances to the winners bracket final on Sunday to play team MicroFriends at 3pm. UOG has a chance to win the tournament if they can manage two straight wins. If the Tritons lose the winners bracket final, they will have to win three consecutive games to win the championship.

All UOG games are recorded and posted on the Triton Athletics YouTube channel. ***(PR)***

UOG co-ed basketball team starts strong with two wins

The University of Guam Recreation Department launched its first-ever co-ed club basketball team at the "Love and Basketball" Tournament sponsored by the Micro-Friends basketball organization. The Tridents club team had a successful start with two wins on Sunday at the Vicente S.A. Benavente Middle School Gym.

The tournament required teams to have three male players and two female players on the court at all times. Male players could not play defense against female players outside the three-point line but could guard females inside the three-point circle.

The Tridents defeated the Imperials in their first game 59-43 and pulled an upset in their second game by defeating the experienced Acdavate team, 55-52.

Ike Solomon scored 21 points for the Tridents in the opening game, with CJ Lukan adding 12 points and Ian Goodall contributing 10 points to give UOG a 16-point victory. Harold Matts led the Imperials with 15 points.

The second game against Team Acdavate was a close battle, with each team taking a solid lead at times and the other team coming back to even the score. UOG had the final surge late in the second half and held off Team Acdavate for the win. Solomon again led the UOG attack with 12 points. Kyle Gilinug added 11 points, and Dichem Tmetuchl scored six points for the Tridents.

UOG is the No. 1 seed with the two wins and automatically goes to the championship game next Sunday. The Tridents will play the winner of the Imperials and Acdavate game. The game time is to be announced.

All UOG games are recorded and posted on the Triton Athletics YouTube channel. ***(PR)***

TRITON ATHLETICS

Ike Solomon drives for the Tridents at the "Love and Basketball" Tournament held on Feb. 6 at the Vicente S.A. Benavente Middle School Gym.

TRITON ATHLETICS

Tridents' Carmen Gogue drives by an Imperial player at the "Love and Basketball" Tournament held on Feb. 6 at the Vicente S.A. Benavente Middle School Gym.

Simons has 29 and Blazers rally for win over Lakers

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Coldeen named chef de mission

MARK RABAGO

Bob Coldeen, newly appointed chef de mission of the CNMI delegation to this year's Pacific Mini Games Northern Marianas 2022, reaches out to fist-pump Mini Games Organizing Committee sports director Ramon "Ray" Tebuteb, right, during a press conference that introduced him to the new post yesterday at the Northern Marianas Sports Association conference room inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Also in photo are, from left, NMSA president Jerry Tan, MGOC chair Marco Peter, and MGOC CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Bob Coldeen is trading his chef's hat at home for the real deal as chef de mission of the CNMI delegation to this year's Pacific Mini Games Northern Marianas 2022.

Coldeen was officially named to the post yesterday morning during a press conference at the Northern Marianas Sports Association conference room inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Oleai.

Also in attendance were NMSA president Jerry Tan, Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, MGOC CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, and MGOC sports director Ramon "Ray" Tebuteb. Pacific Games Council CEO Andrew Minogue and Kelly Blas, MGOC consultant, joined the press conference online.

Coldeen, who retired as sports director of local news channel KSPN 2 last October, said it's an honor to lead the 144-strong CNMI delegation to the Mini Games, which has been made more special because it's being held for the first time in the Commonwealth.

"There's nothing more I enjoy than waking up in the morning and not having anything that I have to do. I did not expect this. I

See COLDEEN on Page 26

NMIBF brings 'Bola' to Kagman Saturday

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the second "Bola" session watch NMI National Team Program player Khristian Itaas demonstrates a dribbling drill at the Garapan Basketball Court last Jan. 29.

Three down, four to go.

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has so far completed three sessions of "Bola," a Mini Basketball Village Outreach Program, and will have its fourth one this Saturday at Kagman Community Center

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NMBA badminton players off to Guam tourney

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the NMI Women's National Badminton Team pose for a group photo before a training session at the TSL Sports Complex last month. The group will head to Guam for the 2022 Guam Badminton Invitational Tournament in Tamuning this weekend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI Men's National Badminton Team players gather for group photo before a training session at the TSL Sports Complex last month.

The NMI National Badminton Team will have its first warm-up event for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 this weekend, as the group competes in the 2022 Guam Badminton Invitational Tournament.

The men's squad's Nate Guerrero, Andreau Galvez, Jordan Pangilinan, siblings Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, Leonard Isaiah Manuel, and Paulo Jerome Quidato, will leave for Guam this morning and will be joined on the trip by Janelle Pangilinan, Jenine Savellano, Jeanelyn Cardinio, Patricia Nicole Surima, Windy Ann Fernandez, and Mikamaika Serrano.

The 13-player NMI delegation will play in the men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles events in

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